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ur backyards have become our main entertaining spaces, which is why proper planning and good design are essential. A deck or patio doesn't have to be fancy or expensive,

but it does need to be properly placed and easy to access, otherwise you just won't use it. It needs to be built out of the best-quality materials you can afford and it needs to be expertly built. After all, you want it to last the distance, and never forget that a well-designed, well-built deck, patio or pergola will add considerably to the value of your home.

Choosing the materials for your new outdoor living space is a matter of achieving the right mix between aesthetics and functionality. If you're planning a deck that will flow on from a timberfloored interior living space, choosing timber decking is a good way to create a seamless indoor-outdoor transition. But timber does require ongoing maintenance so if you're not up for that, a composite decking material or aluminium decking boards with a wood-grain finish might be better choices. And if you're after a natural material that is also eco-friendly, bamboo decking is a great option.

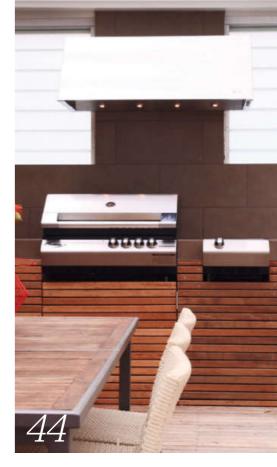
You have the same diversity of choice when it comes to building a pergola. Again, practicalities such as structural strength and maintenance need to marry with the design considerations. A powder-coated steel pergola with a flat cantilevered roof or a laser-cut decorative panel for a roof will be a sturdy structure and the perfect complement to a modern home and landscape design. A timber pergola with open roof beams entwined in a climbing plant will also give you longevity, but it will require work to re-stain or re-paint the framework and the plant will need watering and trimming. Still, it will look a treat in a cottage, heritage or rustic setting.

How you furnish and decorate a deck, patio or pergola plays a major part in how you use the space and how often. With the right furniture, lighting, heating, shade and decor (whether rugs, wall art, pots or lanterns), it will be a comfortable and stylish space that will have you stepping outside every chance you get. For inspiration, take a long, leisurely look at our showcase of deck, patio and pergola projects. Here we present 17 innovative and inspiring outdoor projects, plucked from around the country.

Enjoy!

Karen Booth **Fditor**





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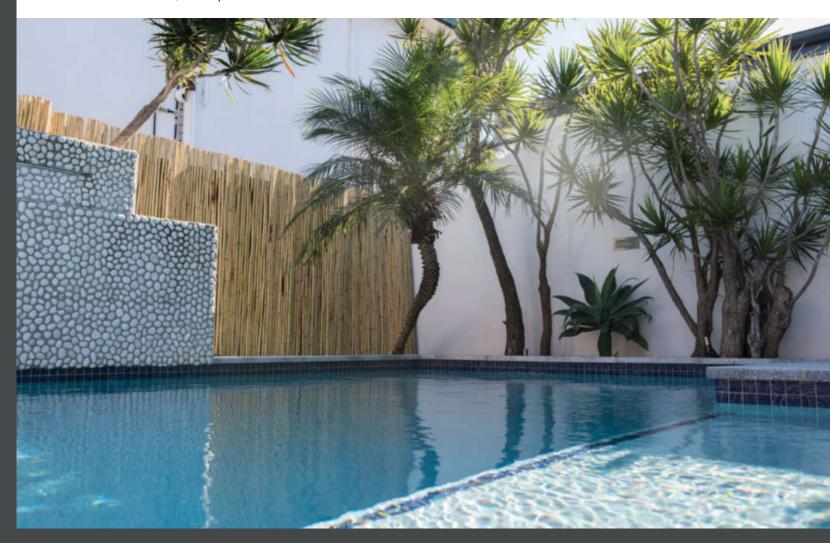




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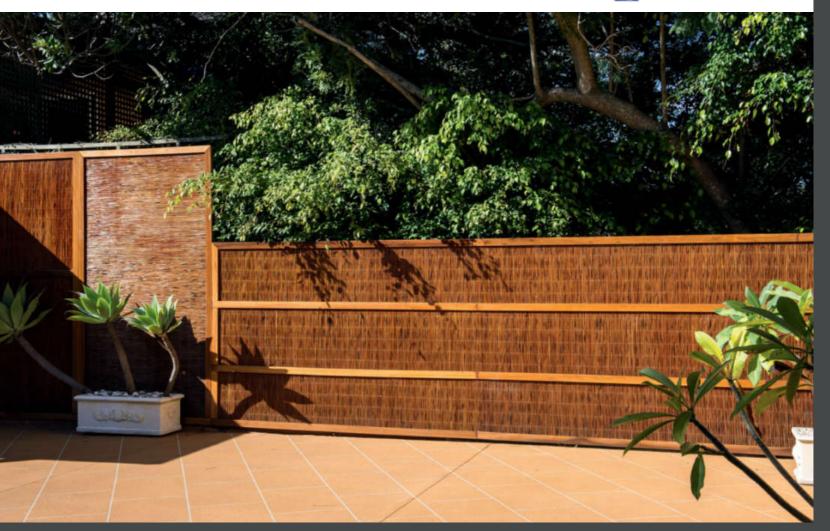


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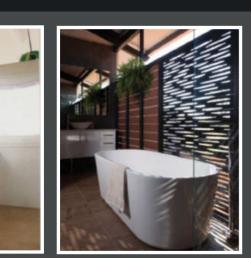
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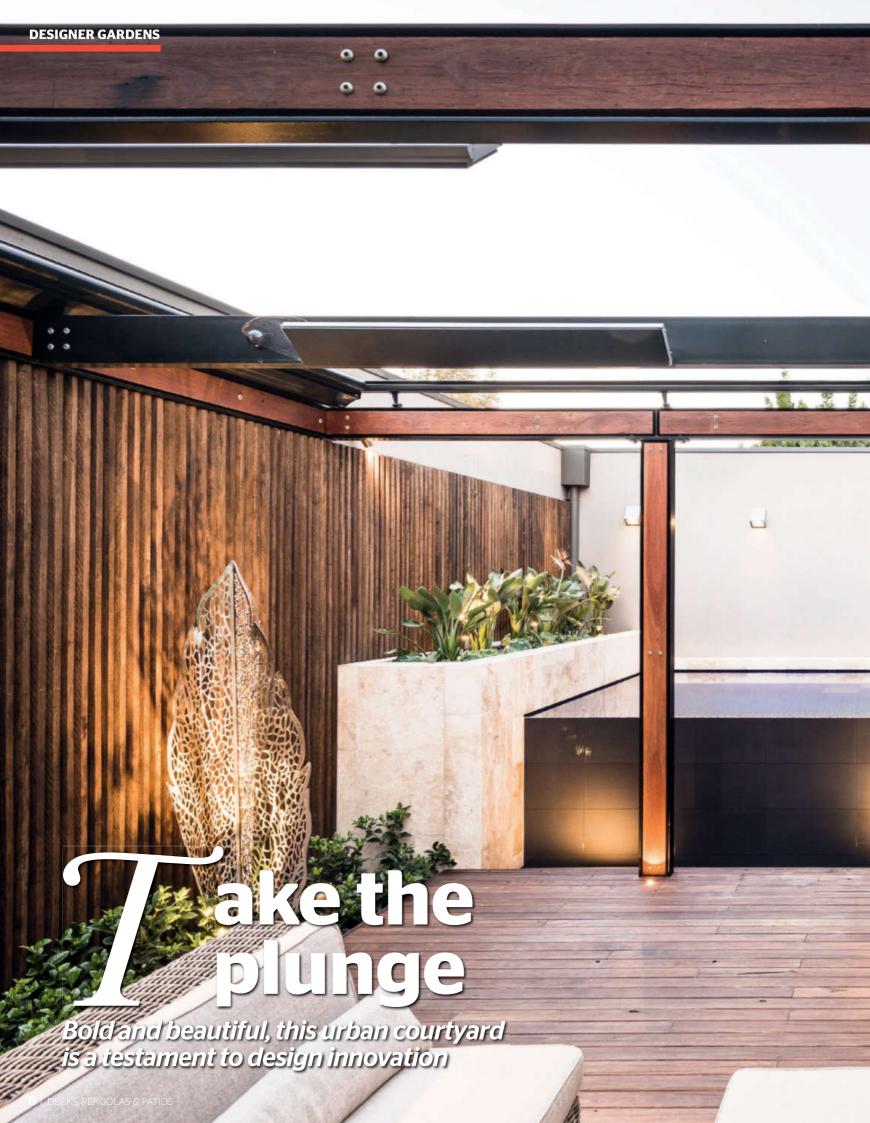


Interior and Exterior Inspirations...

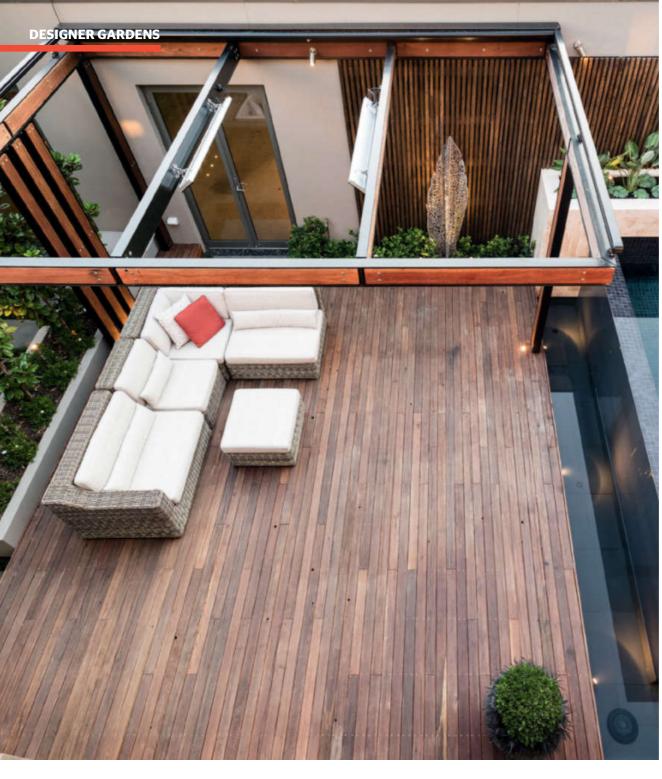














WORDS: Karen Booth PHOTOS: Tim Turner

oasting a bold yet understated design, this courtyard makes the most of the limited outdoor space. "The owners asked us to turn a cold, neverused courtyard into an inviting, liveable and functional space with a plunge pool for the summer months. Flexible

shade was also a requirement, as was an alfresco kitchen and informal pedestrian access to the home from the garage at the rear," explains Steve Taylor of COS Design.

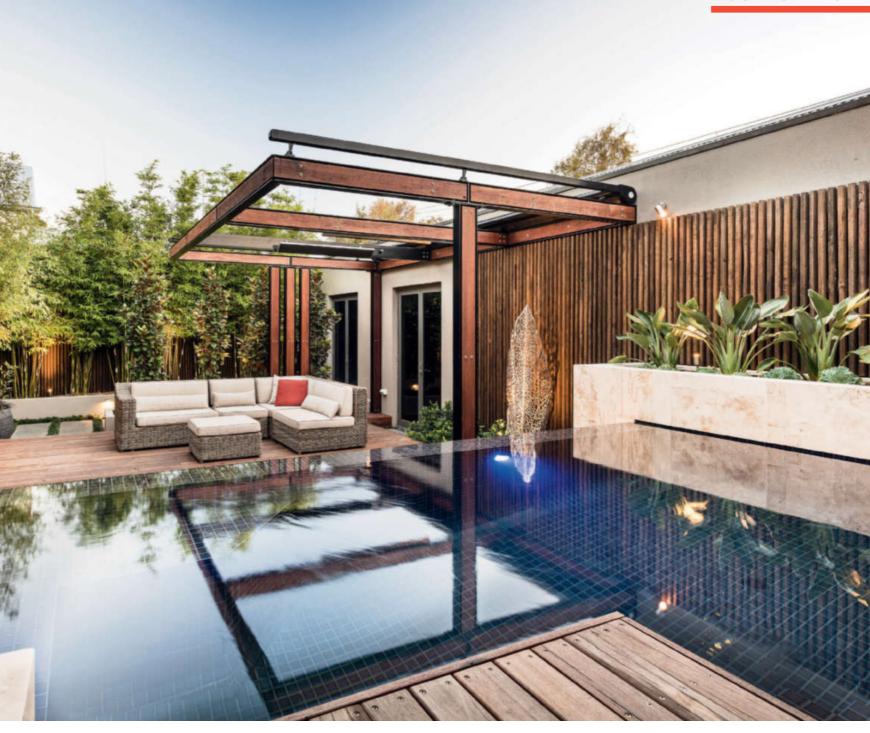
"Most importantly," he adds, "the design had to complement the home's architecture and interior details, reflect the owners' personalities and cater for their lifestyle requirements."

The streamlined outdoor retreat Steve designed for the owners is clearly contemporary, but it is also warm and welcoming. The liberal use of timber, which includes the decking and vertical batten panelling, is what gives the space a sense of warmth while the privacy plantings and screens add to the courtyard's conviviality.

The recycled spotted gum deck and the cantilevered steel and recycled timber arbour, the latter equipped with cafe-style electric heaters, are two of the courtyard's "big ticket" items. By keeping the design uncluttered and placing the posts back from the corners of the pergola, the deck feels spacious and creates a clean open area for entertaining.

The other "big ticket" item is the plunge pool. "Built 800mm above deck height, the two-sided wet-edge pool and water feature moat has eliminated the need for a pool fence. With all heights and clearances complying with Victoria's strict building codes, the only actual barrier is a single glass pool gate located to the rear of

ABOVE LEFT The pergola roof was designed to accommodate a retractable shade system. **ABOVE RIGHT** The lighting is a key component, extending the deck's use into the evening. **OPPOSITE PAGE RIGHT** The mix of materials, which includes recycled timber is perfect.



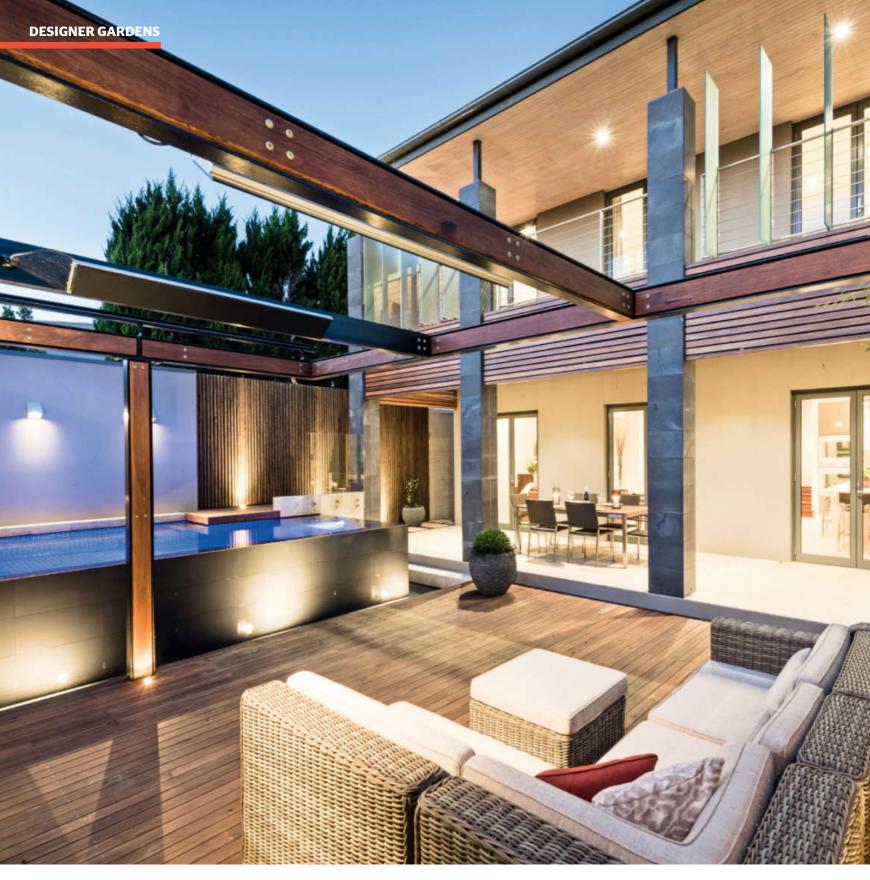
"An innovative, spaceenhancing design that makes the best use of the tight inner-city block"

one of the bluestone piers positioned along the existing alfresco terrace," says Steve.

The exterior of the pool is tiled in bluestone-look porcelain, tying it to the terrace support piers. The pool's exterior tiling is complemented by the Coulson ceramic interior tiles and contrasts with the lighter, warmer tones of the travertine cladding to the raised planters and walls around the pool.

Extensive garden lighting extends the usability of the space and turns some elements, such as the leaf





sculpture from Lump Sculpture Studio and key plants, into night-time features. The planting palette softens the angularity of the design and includes bird of paradise in the raised planter behind the pool, fast-growing slender weaver's bamboo for privacy along one boundary, fragrant gardenias in the lower planters, dwarf mondo between the steppers next to the deck, and two feature pots, one planted with black bamboo and the other with a neatly clipped buxus sphere.

Although the courtyard has an effortless elegance about it, considerable thought was put into every design and construction detail. This ranges from the selection

of state-of-the-art elements, such as the retractable, remote-operated pergola roof from Issey, to the construction expertise and eye for detail displayed by Hamilton Landscapes and Aloha Pools.

"As a designer, my preference is for clean simple lines warmed by natural material palettes. I also like to design highly functional spaces with an emphasis on scale, proportion and detail, which is what I was able to do here," says Steve. He was also able to deliver an innovative, space-enhancing design that makes the best use of the tight inner-city block and ensures a space that looks open and inviting.

ABOVE The deck was designed to flow with ease from the existing terrace at the back of the house.





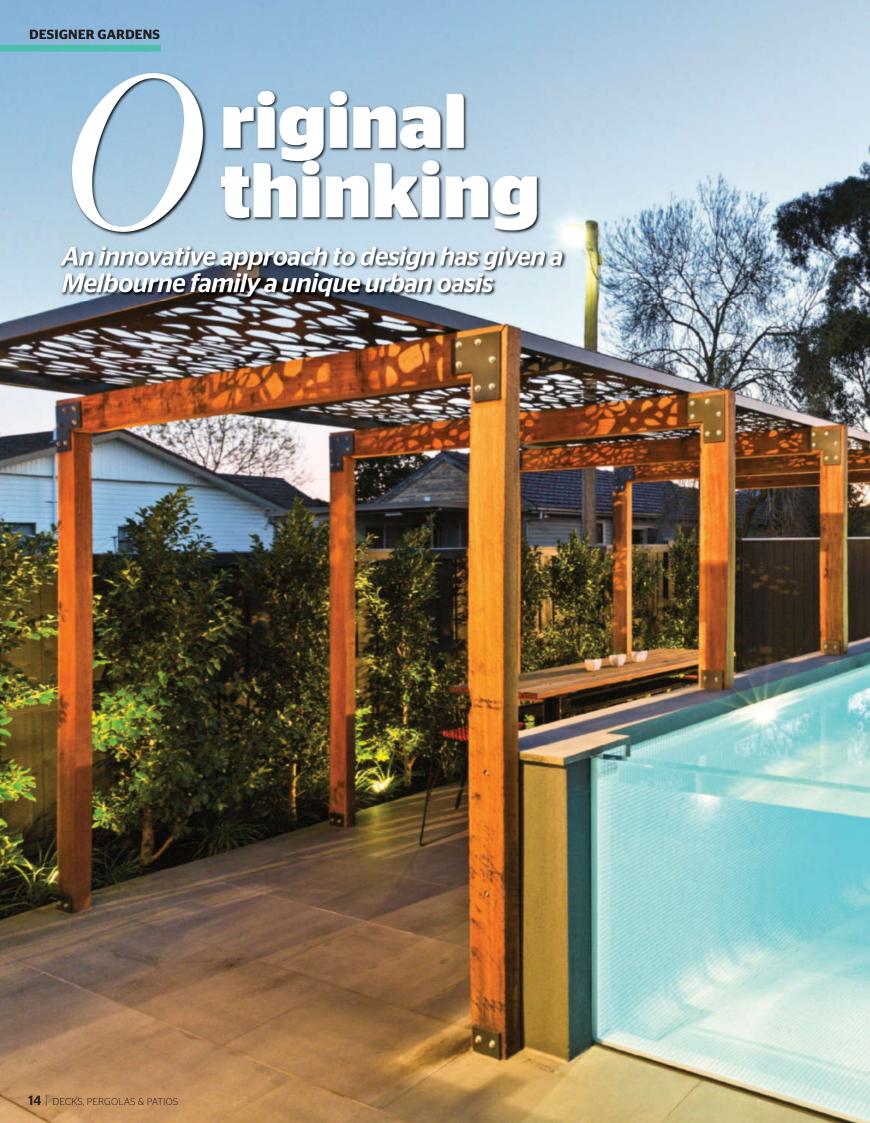




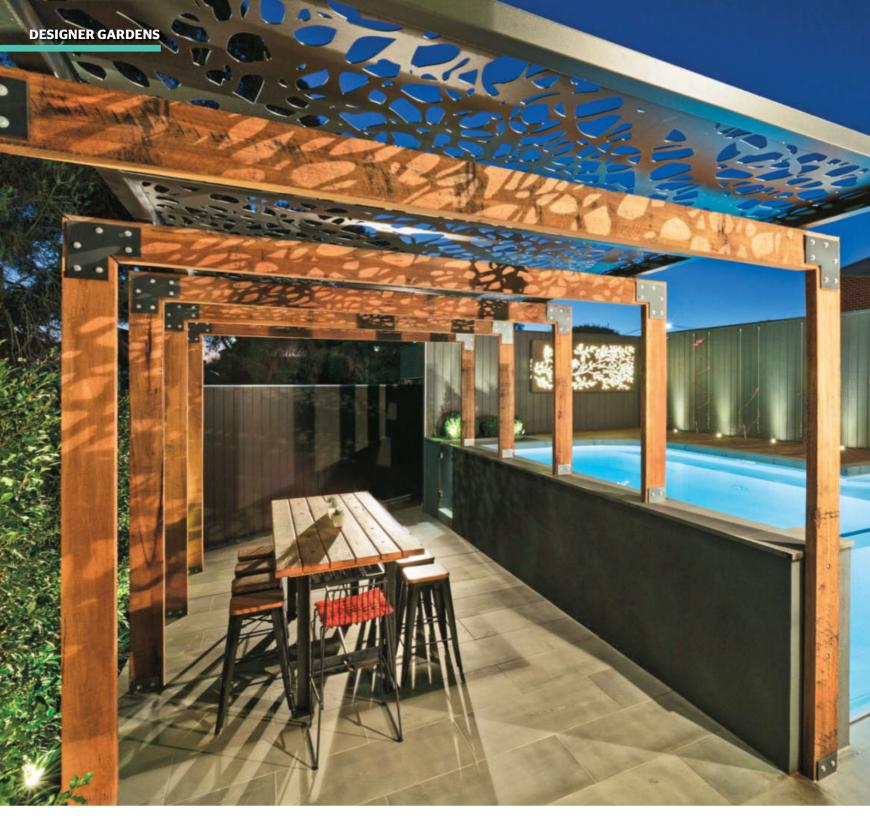


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WORDS: Karen Booth PHOTOS: Patrick Redmond



ffering an interesting new take on both pergola and pool design, this contemporary outdoor living zone shows what can be achieved when design innovation meets construction excellence.

Working to a design by Nathan Burkett Design, Hamilton Landscapes built the landscape while credit for the construction of the swimming pool goes to

Enkipools. This project is testament to the importance of a collaborative approach to construction as its two main design features – a striking elevated pool and a highly architectural pergola - are joined together.

The pergola frame was built using spotted gum posts and beams, as well as large engineered metal plates, giving the structure a modern industrial look. The posts along one side of the pergola are fixed to the raised pool shell.

The contemporary aesthetic was continued with the cantilevered pergola "roof". This was created using lasercut metal screens (Ink Blot design) from Lump Sculpture Studio. In another inspired move, a large acrylic window was integrated into the design of the pool.

The coping around the pool, which includes a custom curved section, has a subtle textured finish that works well with the timber decking beside the pool and picks up on the bluestone paving used at ground level. The boundary fence and storage area screening were clad in vertical ShadowClad panels, referencing the weatherboards of the house.

A hedge of Ficus hillii 'Flash' was planted along the





"The family has a stunning outdoor entertaining area that complements their home"





southern boundary. This is a dense, fast-growing small tree that will soon screen the fence entirely, giving diners in the pergola area a lush leafy backdrop to appreciate.

Topiarised buxus spheres were placed in the raised pool planter to add some visual interest and soften the lines of the wall cladding and pergola posts. Ornamental grape plants were chosen for the pool deck. These vines will grow along training wires attached to the northern boundary wall to create a lush aspect and cool the space during the summer months. The final flourish in the pool area is a laser-cut light box attached to the rear wall.

Although the collaboration between designer, landscaper and pool builder was seamless, that doesn't mean there weren't some challenges to be overcome. The swimming pool was built on special foundations due to the elevated design and the unstable soil conditions. Also, the acrylic window for the pool was so heavy it had to be craned into position from the rear lane.

All the effort was well worth it as the family has a stunning outdoor entertaining area that perfectly complements their home and meets all their lifestyle needs.

OPPOSITE PAGE TOP LEFT This small space makes a very big impact thanks to the custom-designed pergola and pool. **ABOVE** The bluestone paving is the perfect foil for the spotted gum used for the pergola posts and beams. **OPPOSITE PAGE BOTTOM LEFT** The roof of the pergola was fashioned using metal screens from Lump Sculpture Studio.









WORDS: Karen Booth PHOTOS: Patrick Redmond



rom the sinuous sweep of the deck to the enticing curves of the customdesigned planters and seating, this project strikes just the right balance between relaxed resort style and urban elegance.

The garden abounds with arresting design elements, starting with the

curved built-in, timber-topped seats. One faces a fire pit which sits on an area paved in granite setts, the other takes pride of place on a raised timber deck where it wraps around a unique dining table.

The custom-built, recycled-timber table is a feature in its own right. It has three recessed spaces: two are planted with





succulents and the third is used to store bottles of beer.

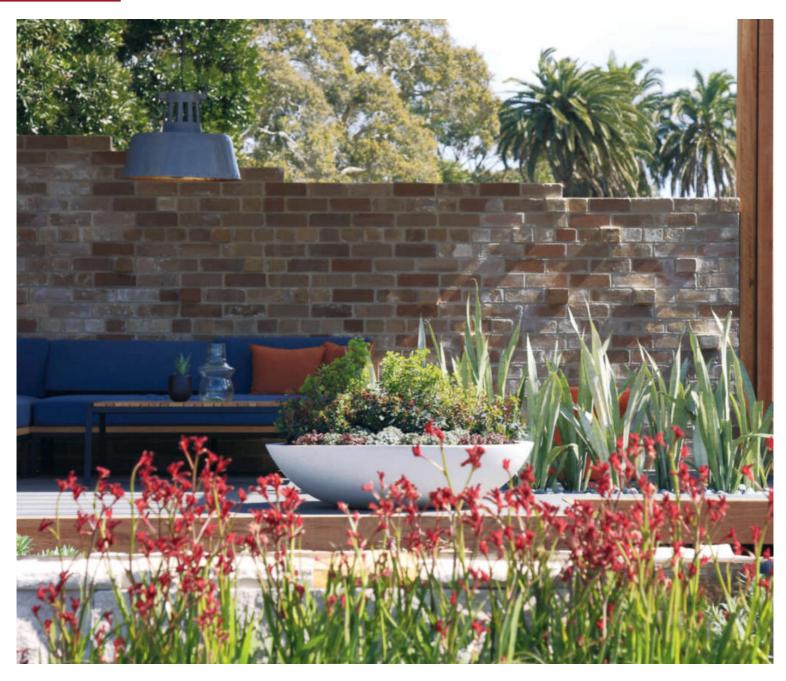
The timber table, seating and decking are the perfect foil for the natural stone used throughout the garden. This includes the granite paving and planter capping, the granite steppers that lead through the lawn and link the two seating areas, and the feature wall comprised of vertical pieces of split stone, each set at a rakish angle.

Along the base of the feature wall, three different types of succulents have been planted. In fact, cacti and succulents have been liberally used throughout the garden, along with architectural feature plantings such as the aloe trees on the deck.

As the garden was on the small size, the plentiful curves create a sense of flow and take the eye on a journey that distracts from the limited space. This ingenious design, which featured on The Block's 2013 season, was a collaboration between David Franklin of Franklin Landscape and Design and contestants Madi and Jarrod Coppock.







WORDS: Karen Booth PHOTOS: Peter Brennan

how gardens are a great way to get some design inspiration, especially when you're looking for clever ideas for small spaces such as decks, pavilions and pergolas. This garden, dubbed Refugium, was created for last year's Australian Garden Show Sydney, where it won a bronze medal in the Inspirational Gardens category.

Designed by Adrian Swain of ecodesign, the garden clearly demonstrated that you don't need a big backyard to have an inviting deck and pergola set amid inviting plant-filled surrounds; you just need to think creatively.

This project, described by Adrian as "quintessentially Australian", placed a strong emphasis on textural contrasts and the use of sustainably sourced products. The latter included recycled materials, such as the bricks used for the walling, also the timber sleepers used for retaining work. This reduced the garden's eco footprint

and softened the lines of the deck and pergola design.

When drawing up the plans for the pergola-covered deck, Adrian employed the principles of passive solar design. The bluestone paving used for the flooring of the deck, the steps and pond coping, for example, provided high thermal mass, while the ground-level pond was included to help cool hot summer breezes as well as provide a pleasing focal point.

The staggered brick wall at the back of the elevated pavilion and the slim vertical timber battens introduced along one side wall simultaneously provided screening and a sense of refuge and enclosure. The pergola roof was divided into two sections: a solid segment at the back for full sun protection, and a more open portion at the front, over the section of the deck that cantilevers above the pond. And by employing well-placed and strategic level changes, the designer was able to make the most of the available space.

Chosen to ensure interest throughout the seasons, the low-maintenance planting palette included Eumundi quandong (a native tree which produces flushes of bronze-coloured new foliage) for form and scale, and the

ABOVE Enhancing the charm of the garden, the deck's rear wall was built of recycled bricks. **OPPOSITE PAGE TOP** A section of the elevated deck appeared to float over the simple pond. **OPPOSITE PAGE RIGHT** The plants were chosen to give the deck trans-seasonal appeal.

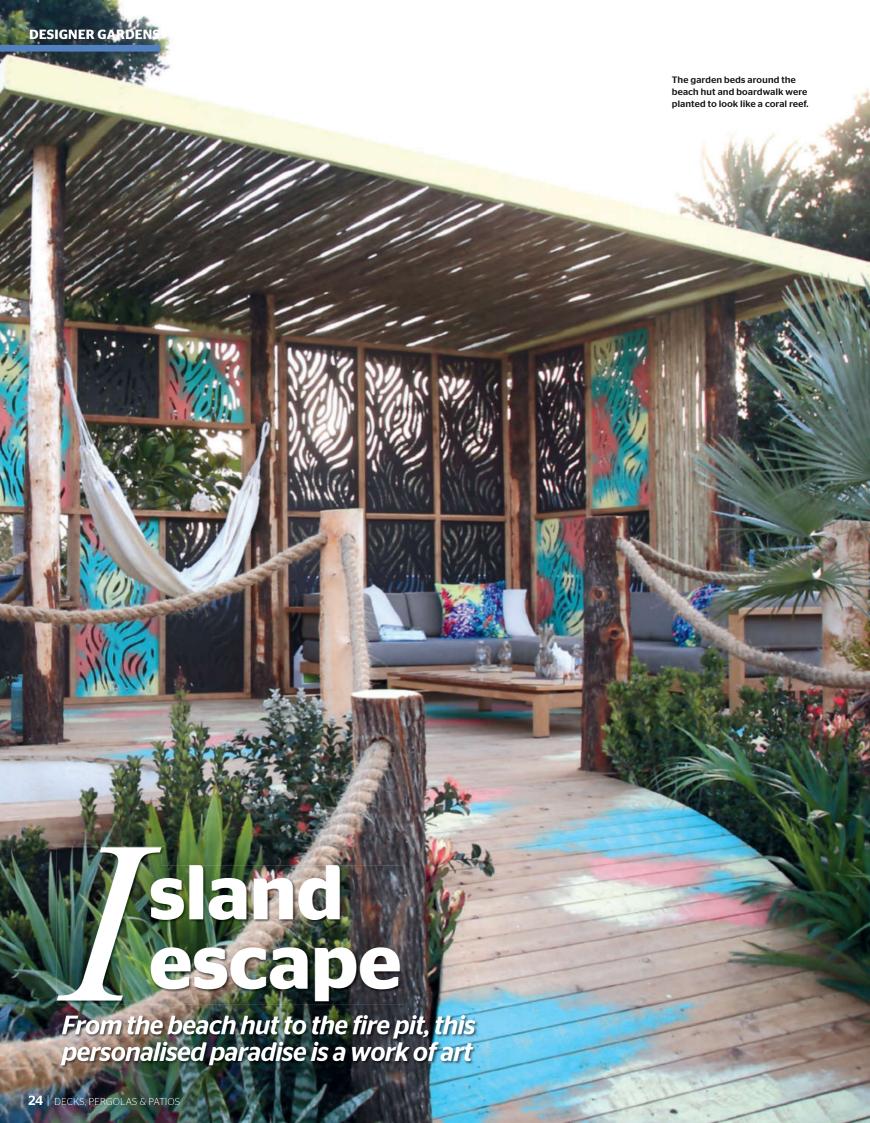




"A strong emphasis on textural contrasts and the use of sustainably sourced products"

deciduous Acer palmatum 'Senkaki' (a striking Japanese maple cultivar known for its coral pink new stems) for summer shade and winter sun. Foliage colours were chiefly silver, purple and deep green, which worked in harmony with the timber used in the construction of the pavilion and the stone paving. For a burst of vivid colour, there were red-flowering kangaroo paws.

Designed for a leafy suburban block with a northwest aspect, Refugium sought to provide a space for entertaining, relaxation and reflection as well as a place to engender a sense of timelessness.





WORDS: Karen Booth PHOTOS: Peter Brennan

elbourne landscape designer Phillip Withers is known for his funloving approach to design and his flair for exciting plant and colour combinations. He brought all of these qualities to My Island Home, the awardwinning garden he

created for the Australian Garden Show Sydney 2014.

A timber boardwalk flanked by post-and-rope handrails led past a "sea of coral" to a beach hut outfitted with a lounge and hammock. The hut roof featured sustainably sourced latte hardwood poles from Touch Wood Trading, while the walls were fashioned out of Outdeco's new Wooloomai patterned screen panels.

The wave-like pattern of the screens' design reinforced the island theme and some were painted to add a splash of tropical colour and tie in with the timber decking. A sunken fire pit was located just a few steps away from the hut, providing a cosy place to gather.

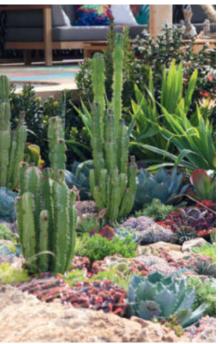
One of the most engaging elements of the design was the "coral sea", which was fashioned out of a diverse array of colourful plants, mainly succulents. Phillip is known for creating plant tableaux that imitate the forms and colours of other elements in the natural world and here his goal was to replicate the look of a reef.

In designing this garden, which was built by Semken Landscaping, Phillip aimed to create a place that would evoke the feeling of stepping out through your back door straight into a relaxed, deserted-island escape, which he clearly succeeded in doing.

At the Australian Garden Show Sydney 2014, Phillip Withers Landscape Design won a bronze medal in the Inspirational Gardens category plus the People's Choice Award.

TOP Handrails crafted out of rough-hewn timber and rope led along the boardwalk to the beach hut with its comfy lounge. ABOVE MIDDLE LEFT Some of the Wooloomai screen panels from Outdeco were painted for added splashes of colour. ABOVE MIDDLE RIGHT Adding ambience and creating a stunning outlook, the designer created a coral reef of succulents.

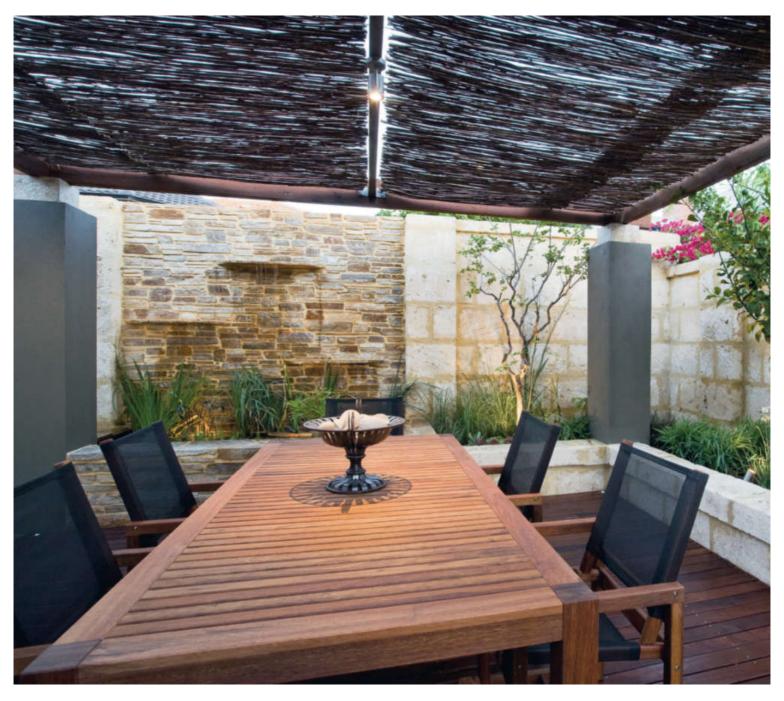












WORDS: Karen Booth PHOTOS: David J Adams



or Perth landscape architect Matt Huxtable. director of Newforms Landscape Architecture & Phase3 Landscape Construction, designing his own back garden was an opportunity to do exactly what he wanted. "The design intent

was to explore a number of sustainable issues of special interest to me, in particular water harvesting, creating habitat for native flora, organic gardening and the use of recycled materials. Because the garden is my own I could afford the luxury of using it as a litmus test for applying these ideas to a modern family garden," explains Matt.

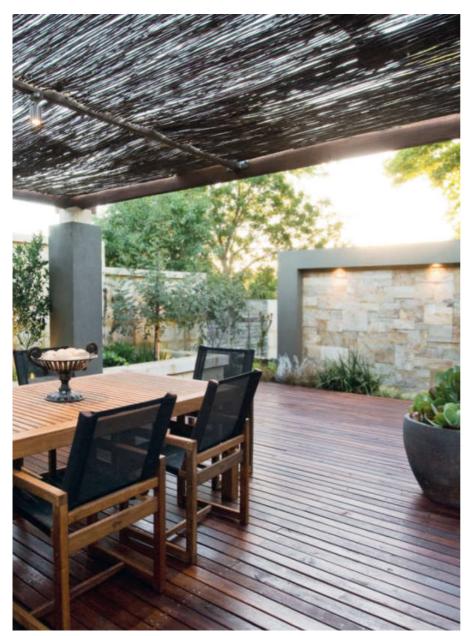
The first step was coming up with a design that complemented the home and maximised the available outdoor space. "It was important that the garden design acknowledge the building it accompanies, which is a small home featuring materials typically associated with the Fremantle area of Perth, such as tumbled brick, timber eaves and leadlight windows," says Matt.

His design divides the garden into two zones, the main one being the decked courtyard that flows from the lounge room. A pergola provides shade in summer and low walls double as seating when entertaining. Feature stonework has been used on both sides of the courtyard. On one side, a water feature and pond have been integrated into the stonework. The stonework at the opposite end of the courtyard takes the form of a screening wall.

Where possible, Matt strove to source local materials to minimise the project's carbon footprint. The creamcoloured Carabooda limestone comes from the Wanneroo/ Carabooda area just north of Perth, while the Toodyay quartzite is from the Avon Valley, less than an hour's drive away from Matt's property.

The timber used is all recycled. The decking boards were old jarrah boards Matt had collected and re-milled. The

ABOVE The stonework around the deck is a mix of Carabooda limestone and Toodyay quartzite. **OPPOSITE PAGE TOP LEFT** Hardy native plants ring the deck and include 'Silver Princess' eucalyptus. **OPPOSITE PAGE TOP RIGHT** The pond contains native fish, which keep the mosquitoes in check. **OPPOSITE PAGE RIGHT** This feature wall defines the end of the deck and is lit for ambience





"A pergola provides shade in summer and low walls double as seating when entertaining"

arbour beams were old jarrah and karri pergola timbers which he sourced from the Quokka, a classified newspaper.

"The biggest challenge for this project was the integration of the water bladder under the deck," says Matt. "The sub-frame of the deck consisted of steel bearers enabling a post-free frame that spanned the cavity for the bladder. I had to ensure that there were no abrasive surfaces adjacent to the bladder to avoid eventual wearing as it fills and empties."

Matt made a concerted effort to use only low wateruse plants naturally adapted to the growing conditions. This meant native species, Mediterranean plants and succulents, most of which only need to be watered once or twice a week in summer.









WORDS: Karen Booth PHOTOS: Patrick Redmond

he bi-fold doors at the rear of this Melbourne home open onto a luxurious, tastefully decorated deck, the design of which melds the owners' love of all things Japanese with their penchant for warm colours and natural materials.

Timber has been liberally used in the construction of the covered deck and was

used for everything from the narrow-board flooring and streamlined built-in bench seating along one side to the ceiling beams and decorative detailing.

From the comfort of the well-appointed deck you have easy and direct access to the custom-designed outdoor kitchen, which is entered via a distinctive archway. The outdoor kitchen has a sink, barbecue, rangehood, and plenty of storage and bench space. The colour scheme, decor and materials used match that of the deck, unifying the spaces. The use of stone in the outdoor kitchen doesn't just visually link it to the deck, however. It connects it to the far end of the garden, where a stoneclad wall forms the backdrop to the water feature and raised timber-topped platform.

This platform is a mini-deck that can be used as a day bed with the addition of some comfy cushions. It can also be employed as a peaceful place to read a book during



TOP The deck at the rear of the house has an easy indooroutdoor connection with the home's interior. ABOVE When it's time to relax, the raised mini-deck beside the water feature proves the perfect place to be

"Each outdoor space flows with absolute ease into the next, creating a sense of cohesion"



the daylight hours or enjoy a glass of wine when the sun goes down. All you need to do is just add a few candles to enhance the already warm night-time ambience created by the garden and pond lighting.

From the mini-deck you can take in all garden views. This includes the swimming pool that sits within a stylish, purpose-built enclosure, the deck at the rear of the house and the one-off outdoor dining table and chairs which, along with the lounge furniture on the main deck, were designed and built specifically for this project.

In keeping with the owners' love of Japanese garden design, the outdoor areas employ feature rocks and stone to excellent advantage. The planting palette, mainly comprised of pine trees, Japanese maples and groundcover conifers, reinforces the Japanese look and feel of the outdoor spaces. So does the decor, such as the main deck's lantern-style hanging lights and wall art.

There are two main things that set this project apart. The first is the effortless way in which each outdoor space flows with absolute ease into the next, creating a sense of cohesion that is very calming. The second is the carefully considered combination of textures, colours and natural materials that ensures the overall project feels well balanced, as well as warm and welcoming.

LEFT The outdoor kitchen, built alongside the interior kitchen, is entered from the covered deck via a distinctive archway. BELOW Taking its design cues from the main deck, the outdoor kitchen features a restful palette of warm natural colours







WORDS: Karen Booth PHOTOS: David J Adams

hen designing a deck or patio that will adjoin the house, ensuring it complements the architectural style of the residence is imperative. Creating an outdoor space that would complement the

brick-built Federation-style house was only part of the brief here, however. "The design also had to increase the usability of the space by incorporating a new shade structure and built-in barbecue, among other elements," says Ryan Healy, director of Perth-based Phase3 Landscape Construction.

"The new design is focused on the alfresco area adjacent to the home's interior living space and kitchen, in a sense extending the usage of the internal sector into the garden. From the alfresco area the landscape design reaches out into the remaining parts of the garden which activates all of the available space."

The stand-out feature of the design is the customised patio roof that ties in with the roof of the house. This corrugated roof is jarrah-framed and has a jarrah-lined box gutter. With an eye on sustainability, recycled jarrah beams and posts were used in its construction. This is matched by the recycled jarrah used for the decking.

A custom-designed water feature was added as a point of interest and new boundary walls constructed to secure the garden. Well-placed lighting completes the picture. Ceiling and wall lighting combines with up-lighting throughout the garden and the underwater lighting in the pond to paint a pleasing nightscape.

There are several keys to a successful outcome such as this, says Ryan. "Firstly, we believe it is context, then simplicity," he says. "A strong emphasis on form and detail is also important as when you use or experience a space it is always the details that matter."



LEFT The patio has everything the family needs, including an outdoor kitchen and space for dining. **ABOVE** Designed to complement the Federation-style home, the new entertaining area fits perfectly.







WORDS: Karen Booth PHOTOS: Ron Tan



here are times in life when you start out really wanting one thing, but circumstances lead you in a totally different yet ultimately more satisfying direction.

The owner of this Perth property had long dreamed of a having a lap pool in her rear garden,

but when Denise Staffa of Outside In undertook the usual pre-design research, contacting both the local council and Water Corporation, she discovered a sewer line ran directly across the backyard. This meant a lap pool was not to be. The homeowner's disappointment soon turned back to excitement, however, as Denise began to lay out a new design concept.

Denise proposed an outdoor room, divided into a deck space and a patio space. The deck would have a state-ofthe-art outdoor kitchen and a dining area while the patio would be a place for lounging about. Both would be under cover, ensuring the full holiday-at-home experience could be enjoyed no matter what the season. The homeowner said "yes please" so plans were finalised and work begun.

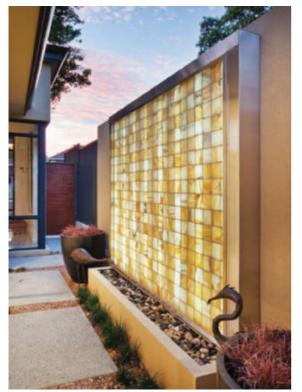
The new outdoor room flows effortlessly from the home's capacious interior living space, creating a seamless sense of connection. Dividing the two outdoor living zones is a rendered partial wall. In the kitchen/ dining area, this wall forms part of the built-in bench seating. The seating incorporates storage space that can be accessed by simply lifting the hinged "lids".

The L-shaped seating wraps around one half of the cooking/dining area; an L-shaped outdoor kitchen hugs the other side. This custom-made stainless-steel creation has everything the homeowner needs to prepare, cook and serve an alfresco meal, including a sink, bar fridge,

ABOVE Washed aggregate patio paving contrasts with the timber decking in the kitchen/dining area.







"The new outdoor room flows effortlessly from the home's capacious interior living space"

lots and lots of storage and, of course, a barbecue.

To warm the look of the outdoor kitchen and contrast the abundance of stainless steel, the benchtop is of polished granite and the walls behind the kitchen are built of Donnybrook sandstone. Quarried in Western Australia, this stone is prized for its unique colour variations and rich texture. The timber decking and timber-topped bench seating add further warmth to the space.

On the other side of the dividing wall is the lounge zone. In this part of the outdoor room, Terrazzo-style washed aggregate poured concrete flooring replaced the existing stained and tired-looking poured limestone paving. A coffee table handcrafted from a thick "slice" of timber adds a unique focal point to this space, while the chocolatecoloured leather lounge provides a comfortable spot

ABOVE LEFT The kitchen is the picture of modernity, with its stainless-steel cabinetry. **ABOVE** From the ceiling fans to the lighting, the outdoor room is designed to be enjoyed. **LEFT** A new path was installed along the side of the residence together with a water wall.





from which to view the overall garden or chat with those still gathered around the dining table.

Comfort and convenience are bywords of this contemporary design. Whether the family is sharing a freshly cooked barbecued meal or chilling out on the lounge, the solid roof keeps rain at bay as well as the often punishing Perth sun. Ceiling fans keep things cool in summer and well-placed task and ambient lighting ensures the outdoor room is appealing and easy to use after sundown. And, of course, the proximity to the home means the family has the perfect indoor-outdoor entertaining space at its disposal.

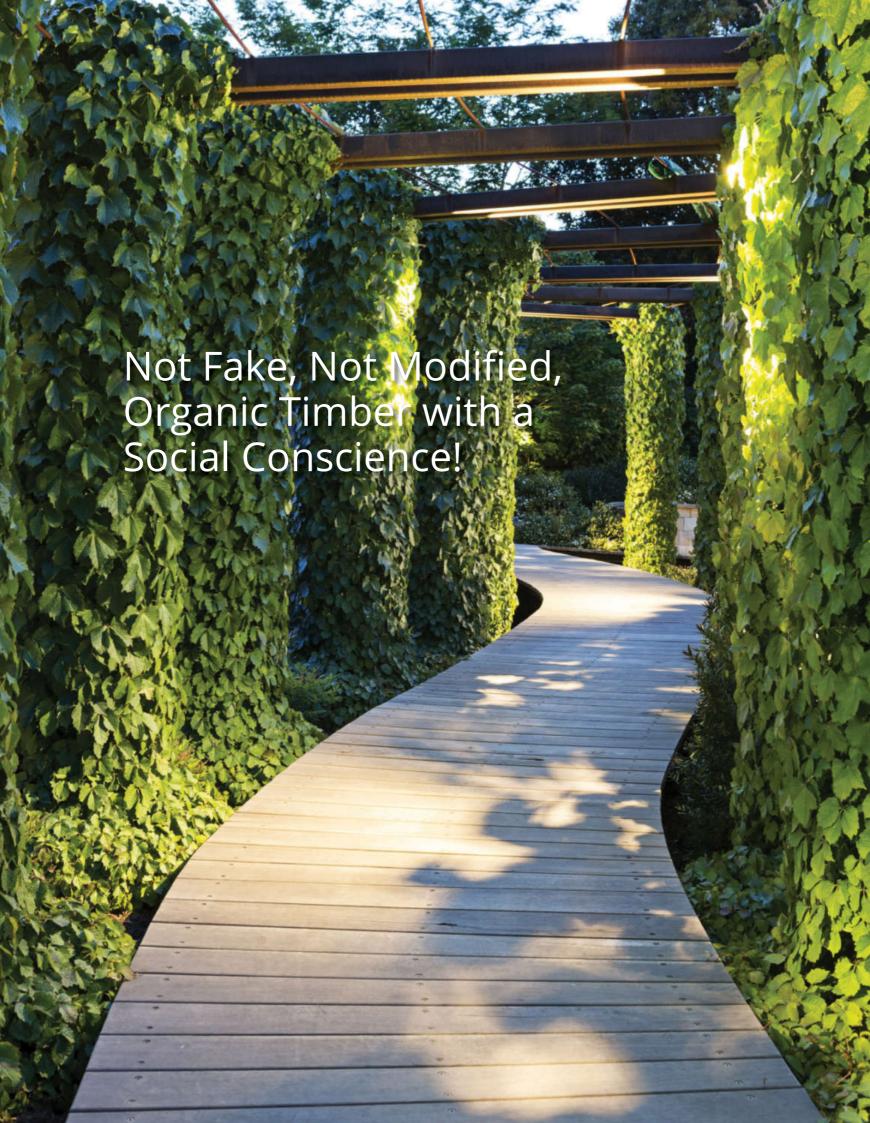
The outdoor makeover didn't stop with the new entertaining areas. The rear garden was fully landscaped and many plants added (some growing in pots, others in raised planters) and a water feature and new paving added along the side of the house. Now the family has a trans-seasonal outdoor room and a pleasing outlook from all areas of the home.

TOP Bi-fold doors open up the home to give the family the ideal indooroutdoor entertaining space.

LEFT The covered patio area is furnished with a leather lounge and a handcrafted timber coffee table.

Casablanca cane DESIGNERS & MANUFACTURERS











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WORDS: Karen Booth PHOTOS: Peter Brennan



or most of us, our outdoor spaces are places of retreat. Somewhere we can go when we want to unwind. But outdoors is also where we head when we want to entertain, which is why we need our outdoor living spaces to be inviting, practical, versatile and trans-seasonal, all in equal

measure. Get the balance right and you'll have an outdoor living zone that will quickly become your family's new social hub, and add value to your property.

Designed as an outdoor room, this smart deck offers the family all the flexibility and functionality they need. It provides a play space for the kids and somewhere the adults can entertain. It's also a space that can be used with equal ease and in complete comfort on the sunniest summer's day or the chilliest winter's night.

When the weather is inclement, the windows and door leading out to the garden can be closed, keeping rain or wind at bay yet still allowing light to flood in. On warm days, they can be opened to allow cooling breezes to flow through. The remote-controlled louvres incorporated into the roof can also be adjusted according to the weather, closing to form a solid roof or opened and angled according to the positioning of the sun.

The deck has everything needed for casual family meals or entertaining. Along one side of the deck is an outdoor kitchen with an integrated barbecue, tiled splashback and rangehood. The bench space is ample and the storage generous. Next to the kitchen is a dining table with seating for six. Diners are warmed by an outdoor fireplace that contributes both heat and ambience. On the other side of



the deck is a built-in bench seat that doubles as a day bed.

In designing and building this space, KMD The Outdoor Construction Company put considerable thought into the selection of materials. Timber was used for the flooring (to complement the flooring inside the home), the cabinet doors of the outdoor kitchen and the top part of the built-in seat. This is complemented by the use of Killcare sandstone cladding from Eco Outdoor's random ashlar stone-tile walling range. The cladding is used on the lower part of the bench seat and on the walls, adding textural interest.

Overall, the look is modern and the ambience warm. The latter is due in no small part to the liberal use of natural materials, which perfectly complement the home's interior. **TOP** The new outdoor kitchen features a barbecue, splashback and ample storage space. **ABOVE** In designing the deck, establishing a seamless indooroutdoor flow was essential.







LEFT By using light colours on the walls and ceiling, the deck feels airy and spacious. **BELOW** The fireplace is the focal point of the design and adds to the cosy ambience.

"The owners wanted somewhere warm and inviting to entertain on chilly Melbourne evenings"

WORDS: Karen Booth PHOTOS: Patrick Redmond

t's what we all dream of having ... a beautifully designed outdoor room where we can relax in comfort or entertain in style. But the outdoor room has gone beyond a dream for most. It is now considered a musthave in newly built homes and is one of the most popular renovation projects for established properties.

This contemporary outdoor room, attached to a house in the

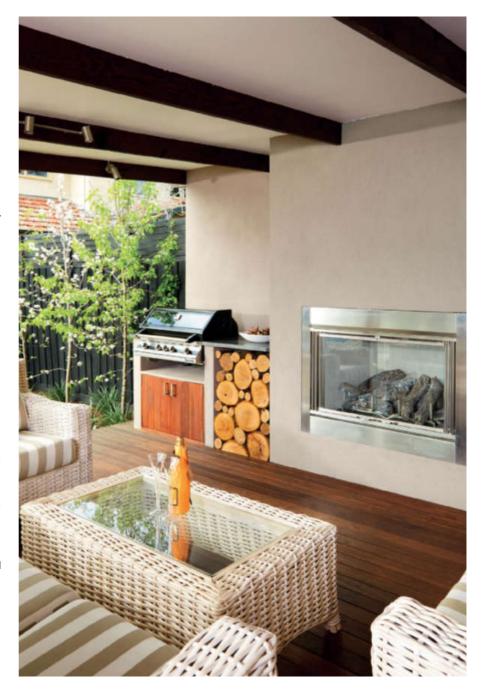
Melbourne suburb of Essendon, was designed by Lee Prior, owner of Cornerstone Landscape Construction and Design. "The goal was to design and construct an entertaining area which enhanced and completed the existing landscape," explains Lee. "More specifically, the owners wanted somewhere warm and inviting to entertain on chilly Melbourne evenings and a design that would not lose its appeal as time went on."

Of modern yet dateless design, the entertaining area features an outdoor log-effect gas fireplace which is the focal point of the room. To one side of the fireplace is a glass-fronted wine fridge; to the other, a built-in barbecue. Both fridge and barbecue are integrated into cabinetry that provides plenty of storage and boasts custom-made benchtops of polished bluestone.

Timber figures heavily throughout the outdoor room, in the decking, screening, cabinet doors, exposed rustic-style timber roof beams and the sawn-log wall feature located between the fireplace and barbecue.

"The other part of the job was to cut out a large garden bed in the paved backyard so we could plant advanced trees to screen out the street and neighbouring property, and to soften the look of the existing expanse of paving," adds Lee. To achieve this, he used mature 3.5m-tall Manchurian pears underplanted with Liriope 'Evergreen Giant'. The ornamental pears were chosen for their screening capacity in summer and their ability to let in warming sun when they drop their leaves in winter. To complete the picture, the fence was painted black to make it "disappear" behind the planting.

Now the owners can settle into the white wicker lounge suite in their outdoor room and look out onto a private, leafy and serene garden scene.





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WORDS: Rachel Falzon PHOTOS: Patrick Redmond

he trick with petite gardens is making the most of the space you have, but when you have an irregular-shaped area and limited space, the challenge is that much greater. Here, a swimming pool, planter boxes and decking have been designed to work with the

level changes and the shape of the site, leading to the creation of a landscape that is a perfect fit.

"The design of the space forces the eye to move around it, which makes a relatively small garden appear larger than it actually is," explains landscape designer David Kirkpatrick of Outdoor Creations.

The owners wanted an outdoor living area that would appeal to all ages and be easy to use and care for, explains David. They also wanted the landscape to be a





OPPOSITE PAGE TOP

Plantation-grown blackbutt timber was used for the decks. chosen for its strenath.

OPPOSITE PAGE BOTTOM

The deck that abuts the rear of the house is covered, providing vear-round protection. **ABOVE** The plants that ring the garden are a considered combination of waterwise natives and hardy exotics.

place of fun and relaxation, somewhere to hold family get-togethers and entertain friends.

The success of the rear garden lies in the ingenuity and functionality of the design. Note how the decking juts over the pool, extending the wet area for swimming while simultaneously providing an additional useable dry space. This layering of wet and dry areas gives the space added dimension.

To ensure the landscape will never date, David chose Australian plantation-grown blackbutt hardwood for the decking and a neutral finish for the other hard surfaces. The timber is thick enough that it will not warp and hard enough that it will age well. Also, the timber looks great alongside the natural sandstone paving and, over time, as the decking timber fades, it will marry even better with the sandstone.

As with most new landscape projects, sustainability and the environment were not far from the designer or owners' thoughts. All rainwater dropped on the site is collected in tanks and pumped back onto the garden through a drip irrigation system.

"Somewhere to hold family get-togethers and entertain friends"

"The plants were chosen for their hardiness and with an eye to ensuring they will not outgrow the space in years to come," explains David. His plant palette includes butterfly bush, Dianella 'Silver Streak', blue iris and white ginger lilies interspersed with creeping boobialla, a hardy flowering native which hangs over the pool wall to create interest.

Proving good things really do come in small packages, this garden, with its inviting swimming pool and enticing decks, will provide many years of entertainment to the lucky family living here as well as an attractive outlook. Forgoing trends and fads, David has successfully created a timeless outdoor living area that is functional and suited to family members of all ages.











WORDS: Sean E. Britten PHOTOS: Patrick Redmond

hen Jason King of King's Landscaping Design and Construction set out to redesign this backyard, the intention was to give the family their own private resort. Looking at the space now, it's

hard to imagine what was there before. "When we arrived, the pool was not functional," says Jason. "The lower and top levels of the garden were broken and falling down, undermining the structural integrity. The area was an eyesore, not to mention completely unsafe and unusable."

The space-maximising split-level design, which includes an undercover deck attached to the rear of the house and

"The new outdoor living areas have totally transformed this family's way of life",

newly paved pool surrounds, means the family now has a choice of functional outdoor spaces and the flexibility to entertain or relax outside throughout the year.

The "sunken" outdoor room forges a seamless link with the interior of the home. The lounge area sits at the same floor level as the home, while the outdoor kitchen area at the side of the deck sits on a slightly elevated platform, discreetly carving the space into outdoor living zones.

The pool and its inviting surrounds sit on the next level up and are accessed via a wide set of steps. The repeated use of materials in the remodelled pool area, including the granite used for the water feature and the walling at either end of the zone, gives the space a coordinated look. This extends to the overall colour scheme, which ties each level of the garden together.

Evergreen trees were used throughout the garden to keep it looking leafy during all four seasons. Weeping lilly pilly was chosen to frame the garden and 'Little Gem' magnolias to provide screening. To create that enticing resort feeling the owners desired, dragon trees and Japanese sago palms were also included.

"I think most Australians crave outdoor living, but some are faced with limitations in terms of space, climate or a challenging environment," says Jason. "This project took an aspirational brief to create an outdoor resort and achieved that through split levels and zoning and clever use of materials. The new outdoor living areas have totally transformed this family's way of life."

TOP The palette of natural colours keeps the spaces looking open and welcoming at all times. ABOVE LEFT The water feature is a focal point that can be enjoyed from the pool or the deck **ABOVE** The new split-level design incorporates the remodelled pool area and the lounging zone.

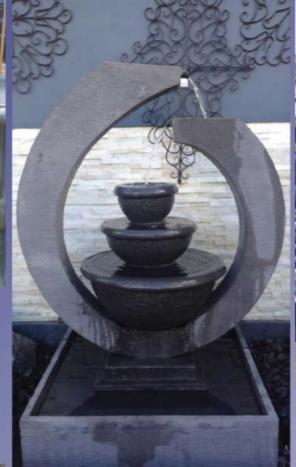


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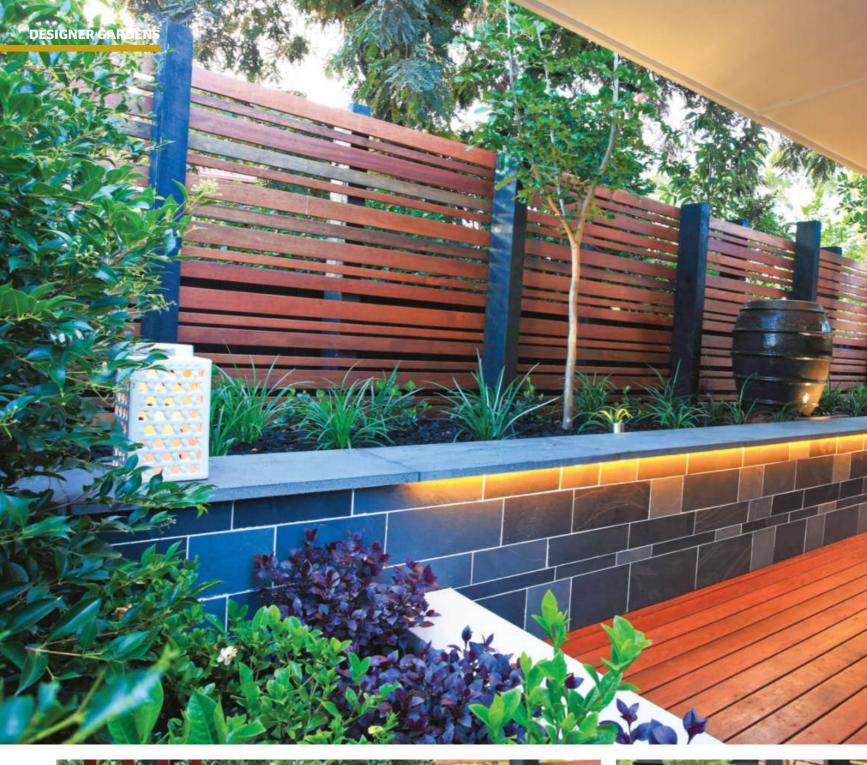
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OPPOSITE PAGE LEFT The materials, from the bluestone capping to the merbau decking, provide a natural look ABOVE A comfortable dining setting sits atop the large hardwood deck constructed from 90mm merbau boards. **OPPOSITE PAGE BOTTOM LEFT** The introduction of different levels gives the space a sense of increased depth. **OPPOSITE PAGE BOTTOM MIDDLE** An urn-style water feature was placed in the centre of the raised planter.

WORDS: Karen Booth PHOTOS: Peter Brennan



esigned for trans-seasonal entertaining, this spacious pavilion ticks all the boxes. "The brief was to create a low-maintenance entertaining area the family could enjoy all year round," says James Torpey of BTM Trades, the company responsible for both design and construction.

"For me, the stand-out

feature is definitely the pavilion," he adds. "When we had the vision for this pavilion, we wanted to make it look like it was floating over the retaining wall, which meant we didn't want any posts to sit on the retaining wall. Our solution was to install hardwood louvres on either side, which give the desired floating effect. We also put the hardwood louvres on a 45-degree angle from the back door so you can still see the garden through them. This also makes the space feel bigger and invites the garden into the pavilion."

BTM Trades used hardwood decking rather than paving for the floor of the pavilion. "There was an existing deck we wanted to extend. The old deck was made of 90mm merbau

"Designed for transseasonal entertaining, this spacious pavilion ticks all the boxes"

boards which we sanded back and re-oiled, making it look like new. This was extended with the addition of new 90mm merbau boards," explains James.

A stone-clad masonry wall, which doubles as a planter, was built along the rear boundary. This sits 600mm higher than the new deck and is capped by 400mm-wide bluestone pavers that turn the wall/planter into a seat. A key design in lighting was an LED strip light that was housed out of the bluestone, allowing it to wash down the cladding.

An urn-style water feature was placed at the centre point of the raised planter and a timber-slat screen built to add privacy and a sense of enclosure without the space feeling hemmed in.

When choosing the plants, BTM Trades had to keep in mind the reduced amount of sunlight they would receive due to the location of the pavilion. For screening, Acmena smithii 'Sublime' was planted along the new lap and cap timber fences. For colour, there is Alternanthera 'Little Ruby' and to act as a feature and provide shade from the western sun, once mature, there are two Cupaniopsis anacardioides trees.

"With every project we do, our approach is to design spaces where people can sit and enjoy the company of family and friends. Adopting the highest standard of construction is a part of this," says James. Here, the BTM Trades' team has achieved this, and more.











WORDS: Erina Starkey **PHOTOS:** Glenn Weiss

ity dwellings can present some pretty challenging outdoor spaces, such as the formerly empty and rather awkward area located immediately outside this home's living room. Connor Brannelly of Brannelly Outdoor, an expert in small-space design, was called in to repurpose this spot and create a stylish entertaining hub.

The space was made over with a raised kwila hardwood deck and turned into an outdoor room, providing a place where the family could gather for brunch or evening meals. Only the glass door separates the covered deck from the interior living room, promoting an easy interaction between the two, and also ensuring that children playing on the deck can be safely supervised.

The outdoor room has a kitchen with a flat-topped barbecue, a double glass-fronted bar fridge, and cabinets with a contemporary charcoal-coloured finish. The sleek lines of the outdoor kitchen are echoed in the nearby dining setting, perfectly complementing the clean-edged design of the pergola and the home itself.

There is a surprise, however. The kitchen cabinets provide storage for children's toys and the small lawn mower that is needed to keep the adjacent square of lawn looking trim and terrific.

The side corridor leading off the deck was also reinvented. It now boasts a timber slat screen, a stepping-stone path of square pavers interspered with pebbles, as well as a water feature with four bubble jets that creates a mesmerising visual effect. This feature can be viewed through a picture window in the dining room wall.

With some clever thinking, two previously ineffectual spaces have been transformed into outdoor zones that bring pleasure, day and night.

LEFT From the kwila decking boards to the lights, the emphasis is on the use of quality materials and fittings.

BELOW LEFT The deck is perfectly positioned for indoor-outdoor entertaining and watching the children play.

BELOW MIDDLE In an inspired move, space was included in the cabinets for toys and gardening equipment.

BELOW From the deck you have easy access to the stepper path that leads you along the side of the house.













WORDS: Justine Carlile PHOTOS: Patrick Redmond



iven the architectural style of the 1980s rendered brick house, we decided on a rustic theme for the landscape design with extensive use of natural stone paving, rocks for wall cladding, and recycled timbers for the decking areas and pergola.

The extensive L-shaped

timber-decked outdoor room flowing from the living-dining areas of the house provided a great opportunity to establish a large dining area, a lounge area, and a cooking-barbecue area. The combination of wide recycled red gum timbers for the decking, solid recycled red gum timber posts for the pergola, with a full wall behind the barbecue clad in a rugged sandstone rock, has produced a functional outdoor room which is a natural extension of the house. Adding to the charm of the cooking area is a single-piece honed bluestone benchtop surrounding the barbecue.

While the outdoor room extends from the house at the same level, the garden and pool area is almost one metre lower and is accessed by extensive timber steps which wrap

"A complete transformation which incorporates an outdoor room"

around two sides of the outdoor room. Stepping off the deck, the paving around the pool is Noce travertine, a rustic natural stone with brown tones that blends well with the timber decks of the outdoor room and the sun deck.

The sun deck is a slightly raised platform at the end of the pool built of recycled red gum timber. Behind it there is a wall



of rugged sandstone rock to complement the outdoor room. To enhance the tropical resort flavour of the sun deck, there is a row of dwarf bird of paradise in front of the back wall which in turn is framed on one side by a row of ornamental pears and pleached ficus on the other.

This project may have started as a simple garden makeover, but the end result is a complete transformation which incorporates an outdoor room, a pool and lush garden areas, all of which remain true to the rustic theme.

Justine Carlile is a landscape designer and founder of Melbourne-based Justine Carlile Landscape Design.

TOP LEFT Adding character to the pergola, recycled red gum timber was used for the posts. TOP RIGHT The timber-topped sun deck at the far end of the pool is the ideal place to relax **ABOVE** The outdoor room is big enough to provide for separate

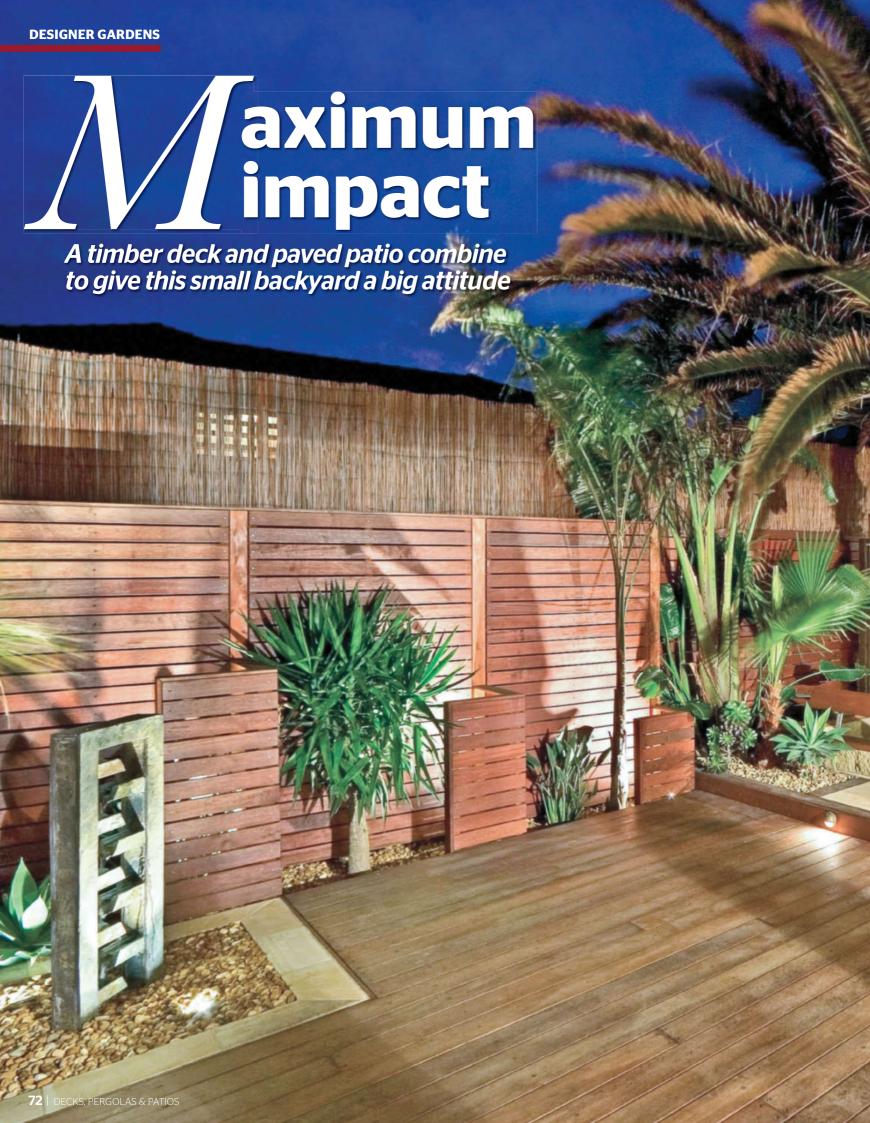
dining and lounge areas.





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LEFT The backyard features a sandstone-paved patio area and a hardwood deck, giving a very natural look. **BELOW** The deck, which incorporates a drop-down section, was built of merbau, a popular decking material



WORDS: Karen Booth PHOTOS: Patrick Redmond

ou would be hard pressed to find a more magnificent specimen than the amazing Canary Island date palm that claims centre stage in the rear garden of this Melbourne property. So it's not surprising that when the owners decided it was time for a complete

backyard transformation, this statuesque palm was to be the main feature of the new outdoor design.

In addition to featuring the palm, the owners' wish list included making the 12m x 17m space more functional and easier to maintain. As part of this, hardy plants were a must, as was the inclusion of natural materials with earthy colours.

Constructed by Stanbrook Outdoor Creations to a design by Ben Bentley of BJB landscaping, this courtyardstyle outdoor living area ticks every box. In effecting such a dramatic transformation, Stanbrook was able to re-use some existing elements. An exposed aggregate concrete slab, for example, was revamped to provide a base for the large-format sandstone pavers. Sealed to prevent staining, these pavers have proven the perfect choice for the outdoor entertaining area.

The fences were able to stay, too, and have been camouflaged with merbau timber-slat screening. This durable, termite-resistant hardwood has also been used to construct the decking and planter boxes. The plants, which include grass trees, yuccas and bird of paradise need minimal attention and look amazing set against the timber screens. To slake their thirst during dry spells, there is an inline drip system.

The final flourish is a sculptural water feature standing proudly in one corner. It gives the backyard a fresh feel and introduces the soothing sound of moving water.





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Backyard Essentials)



WORDS: Kate McKee

pergola can be a great addition to your garden. It can be a design asset, creating a focal point, and it can perform a practical role, adding shade and definition to a deck or patio. What's more, a pergola will give an alfresco living space an outdoor room-like feel because it has a roof, even if that roof is only vine-entwined beams.

Plan ahead

First you will need to look at your site conditions and check with your local council if you will need approval in order to build a pergola. You will also need to consider aspects such as space, drainage and proximity to power points for things like lighting or climate control options.

Once you have a rough idea about what you would like, then it's time to assess your budget, which will ultimately influence the size of your project and type of materials used. Remember, a pergola is a permanent structure so it pays to use the best-quality materials you can.

If you are enlisting the help of a building professional, ensure you are dealing with a reputable and well-established company as the cheapest quote won't necessarily be the best one for you.

Choosing materials

When selecting materials, always keep in mind the practical aspects of your design as well as style considerations. Think about your surrounding environment and if your home is prone to high winds, sea air or excessive rain. Choosing materials that will suit your house and garden design and also provide you with durability and longevity is key.

Traditionally, pergolas were made of timber, which is often the least-expensive option, but they can be made of materials such as aluminium or steel. Timber has a lovely natural look, feel and texture but it will need regular maintenance to protect it from the elements and rot. Metal materials are perfect for ultra-modern homes to give the landscaping an edgy twist. A treated steel pergola won't rust or decay and can be constructed quickly.

Aluminium and powder-coated aluminium pergolas are lightweight, strong and will never rust, which is perfect if you live near

Height and shape

"If you're attaching the pergola to the house, its height doesn't have to be governed by the height of your house eaves; it can be attached through a roof onto a load-bearing wall or

"If you think you might want to cover it at some stage with a translucent weatherproof roof or shadecloth, it needs to be angled for hot air to spill out from underneath and prevent it becoming unbearably hot. In addition, set battens with at least a five per cent pitch, so a roof added later will drain.

"Don't just automatically opt for a standard rectangle with a level top," she circles, fans and triangles. Give yourself something to look up to as well, with waveand arches, or decorative additions like scrolls, fancy brackets and artwork.

BELOW This pergola, designed by Myles Baldwin Design, perfectly integrates with the terrace and feature wall.

the coast. For a traditional look, pillars can be made from stone, whether it's rounded river rocks or more angular sandstone cladding. Another inexpensive idea for pillars is to make them out of cement. These can then be rendered or painted to fit in with your home's exterior palette.

What goes on top

In terms of roof design, a flat roof is a good match for a contemporary home. For added interest it can be placed at a slight angle or cantilevered. A pitched roof has a more traditional look and it has the added benefit of encouraging extra air circulation. And of course you have the choice of a solid roof, an "open" roof (where you have overhead beams)

Expert tip

The shade from a pergola influences the internal temperature of your home. If positioned on the northfacing side, summer sun is kept off walls and windows; if high enough, winter sun still streams in underneath.

or, if you prefer, a combination of both.

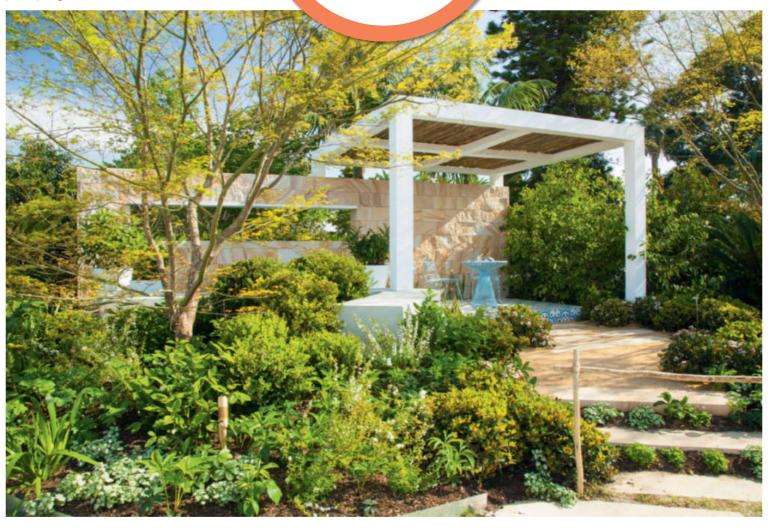
Solid roofs, which won't let in sun or rain, may be constructed out of a variety of materials such as Colorbond, tiles, polycarbonate or thatch. If you want sun coverage but are not worried about keeping rain out, shadecloth can be used. For dappled shade, screening materials such as Natureed or a laser-cut decorative metal panel are very effective, as is a "roof" of climbing plants such as wisteria or grape vines.

If you like, you could go down a more hi-tech route and incorporate a remotecontrolled retractable awning into the roof structure or install a louvred roof system.

Perfect placement

When deciding what size and shape to go for, think about what you want to use it for. Is it purely ornamental or do you actually want it to have a function, such as to provide a shady area to entertain under? Also consider space and size. If it's too big and your garden is too small, it's going to dominate the outdoor area and make it feel smaller overall.

Placement is equally important and you will need to consider what the view will be from every window in the back of the house. Will it obstruct the outlook or disrupt the visual flow of the garden? For this reason, a pergola set to the side or in a corner can be best. However,





also want to make it the focal point of your yard, which means central placement is ideal.

Plant power

For an outstanding show in spring, plant wisteria to climb up the supports of a pergola and across the top. To create an even more stunning effect, train it on individual horizontal stainless-steel wires strung between the posts of the pergola. Wisteria needs to be pruned two or three times a year and can be kept well under control and encouraged to produce abundant flowers by trimming new growth back to three or four leaf nodes from the main stem.

For privacy, create a screen by attaching several evenly spaced wires vertically between two of the structure poles, or you can do the same with horizontal wires from the top to the bottom. Once plants have grow over the top of the pergola, you have a perfect shady spot away from the sun's rays. Clusters of pots and hanging plants also look beautiful when paired with a pergola design, allowing the space to come alive with greenery.

Adding value

A pergola is a highly visible feature and a permanent structure, so it should integrate with the overall style of your house and surrounds. A rashly considered design could even decrease



the value to your home rather than increase it so always keep in mind that a pergola needs to be big enough for what you want to do underneath it, but also so it looks the right size for your house. Narrow pergolas are not much use, unless the main purpose is to shade house windows. Also, the best-looking pergolas have substantial posts, often much thicker than is required structurally, so always keep aesthetics and structual soundness in mind.

The bottom line? Take your time to plan the right pergola and your investment can add value to your lifestyle as well as your property. "A pergola will give an alfresco living space an outdoor room-like feel"

TOP Designed and built by Anthony Spies Landscapes, this pergola and deck are a destination in their own right. ABOVE This garden, designed by Natural Design, features a pergola with a ceiling that is clad in Glosswood panels



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1. Concept Brief (before)







2. Concept Drawings







3. Construction (Special Features)







4. Ongoing Maintenance

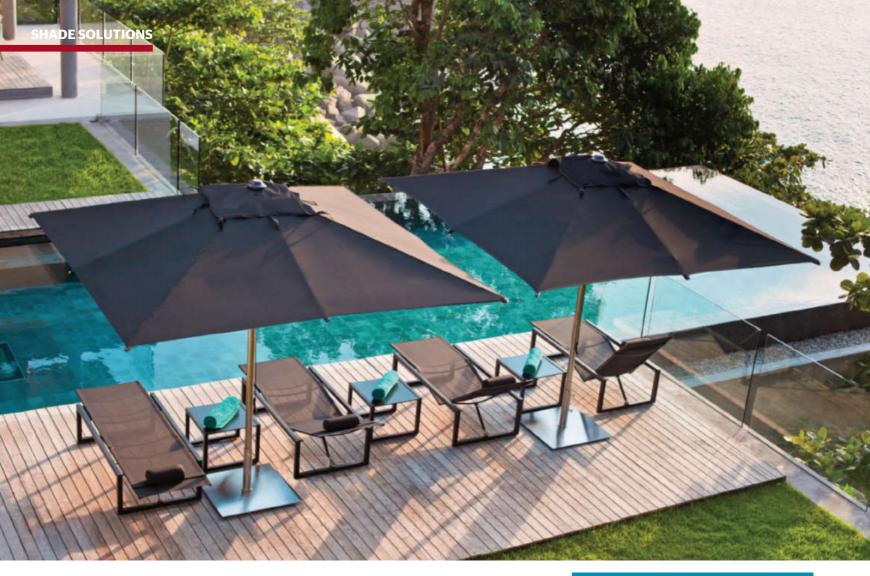




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From umbrellas to retractable awnings, there are copious shade-giving options

WORDS: Sunny de Bruyn

ummer can be glorious, but it can also be relentless, and when things really heat up, the one thing you will definitely need is shade. Regardless of whether you have a courtyard, balcony or deck, it is surprisingly easy to find a shade solution to suit your needs, your space and your budget.

Shade options can essentially be divided into permanent structures or those that can be erected and taken down easily. If you have the space and the budget, a permanent structure is ideal. This could be anything from a retractable awning to a pergola or outdoor blinds. If you don't want to spend time or money getting one of the above options installed, then a simple shade sail or market umbrella is the perfect choice. Best of all, you can put them up yourself with minimal fuss and financial outlay.

Simply sailing

A shade sail can be custom-made or you can buy a ready-made one. They come in a variety of sizes and shapes (such as square, rectangular, triangular and hexagonal) and many shades. They can be made up by a sail maker, canvas manufacturer or a specific shade sail company, of which there are many. They range in complexity from simple sails that you can erect and fasten yourself to more elaborate products.

Before you buy one or start installation, it's important to ascertain whether you have suitable fixing points. Existing structures can work, such as a pergola, fence post, large tree or fascia. If none of these is available, you'll need to put in a post. It's vital to ensure that fixing points are structurally sound. If you're not sure, consult a builder or the sail manufacturer. Small sails can easily be tethered to existing structures like a verandah post, however larger sails will need strong steel posts, which means calling in the contractors, so keep this is mind when deciding on how big to go. Unless you consider yourself a seasoned DIYer and have the right tools for the job, it's best to get a builder or sail manufacturer to install your sail or awning.

Gorgeous gazebos

- To be considered a gazebo, a structure needs to be freestanding and have a roof, which of course makes it ideal for providing shade. The shape and style are up to you.
- While the word gazebo is often used to describe structures of traditional or period design, they can be Orientinspired (pagoda style), of Asian influence (Balinese hut-style) or of more modern design.
- Depending on size and location, a gazebo could be a simple structure with bench seating or it could be equipped with a table, chairs and a barbecue for outdoor entertaining.
- Portable gazebos, which can be easily erected on a patio or on the lawn and then disassembled and packed away, are a good option for those who entertain but don't have the space for a permanent shade structure.

TOP Sometimes all you need is a simple market umbrella or two. Shown here. Sha Alu umbrellas from Royal Botania. **OPPOSITE PAGE TOP** Add colour with the Del Terra cocktail umbrella, available from Home Timber & Hardware. OPPOSITE PAGE RIGHT Get creative and overlap shade sails. Pictured here, Ingenua sails available from ShadePlus.



Two main ways to tension a shade sail are with stainless-steel turnbuckles or by using a pulley system. If you want your shade sail or awning to be up permanently, then the turnbuckle is the best option. If you're looking to install one that is only used on an occasional basis, however, the simple pulley system is ideal and can easily be set up and taken down in minutes.

Awesome awnings

Whether it's a retractable or a fixed frame, an awning is a clever way to enjoy your outdoor space. In summer it offers the benefit of shade, however year round it provides the opportunity to extend your living area and be protected from the elements, even when it's raining. The range of fabrics and colours is vast and you can match an awning to the exterior of your house or to your outdoor furniture. Reputable models are highly durable and can weather sun and rain without fading or cracking.

Choose one that is made of UV-resistant material to ensure you are protected from the sun's rays. For added flexibility, go for a retractable awning (either manual or automatic using a motor) so you can choose how much sun or shade you want. This is particularly handy in winter to allow plenty of sunshine into the house. For the sophisticated motorised models and for larger shade sails that require support beams, you will need a contractor to install the product.

Pergola perfection

A pergola is relatively cheap and easy to build. It consists of vertical posts or pillars that support cross-beams, often upon which climbing plants are trained such as grape vines, wisteria and bougainvillea. A pergola can be an extension of a building or a stand-alone structure. They are not enclosed so are not weatherproof, but they do offer some shade. Plants can also be used to create reasonable shade when grown over or an arbour. Depending on the plant chosen, shade will vary from dappled sunlight to full shade.

If you're contemplating erecting a pergola, consider space and size; if it's too big and your vard is too small, it's going to dominate the outdoor area and make it feel smaller overall. Placement is also equally important and you'll need to consider what the view will be from every window in the back of the house. Will it obstruct the view at all or disrupt the visual flow of the backyard?

Beauty of blinds

An outdoor blind is a smart way to make your patio or deck more usable and comfortable, not to mention add value to your home. You can choose from a clear PVC cafe-style blind or a tinted mesh-type shade. Clear blinds give you the benefits of an uninterrupted view and shelter from rain and wind, while tinted meshtype blinds can offer much-needed privacy from neighbours and provide sun shade.



Expert tip

Outdoor blinds are perfect for decks and there are good-quality products at both ends of the market. Things that define the price include how the blind is secured when down, whether it is manually retracted or motorised, and how it is connected to the other blinds next to it (such as zips or a track-guided system). Standard blinds are spring-loaded and manually pulled down, fastened to the ground with some sort of buckle, strap, rope or fastener. The next level up has models with a manual winding system and at)



Louvred roofs

Opening louvre roofs are extremely versatile. They can be angled to allow sunlight to filter through or you can close them completely. Some also have rain sensors so you can furnish your pergola, secure in the knowledge that once it starts to rain, your furniture and decor will be protected

Enjoy full shade or dispersed light simply by adjusting the louvres, a great way to also set the mood for outdoor entertaining. As an added benefit, if you position the louvres at the right angle, they'll capture cooling breezes in summer. Frames can be constructed from an array of hardwearing materials including timber, aluminium or steel, and roofing structures can be gabled, flatroofed, or whatever you choose.

the higher end, motorised models extend and retract the blind at the simple push of a button.

Ultimate umbrellas

Just like other shade solutions, there's no shortage of choice when it comes to umbrellas. Prices range from a cheap \$50 model to one that can cost around \$1000. Obviously quality distinguishes the different ends of the scale, and it is important to go for the best one you can afford. Your umbrella will be copping many weather extremes so it needs to be made of high-quality materials and of sturdy construction to ensure it lasts many summers. Look out for one made of durable material that has some sort of UV resistance.

Depending on how much room and what type of outdoor furniture you have, you can choose from a standard market umbrella on a central stand, or one with a side post (like a hangman frame). Side-post umbrellas are great because the frame is out of the way, plus they look great. Quality umbrellas usually have a winder

"It is surprisingly easy to find a shade solution to suit your needs and budget"



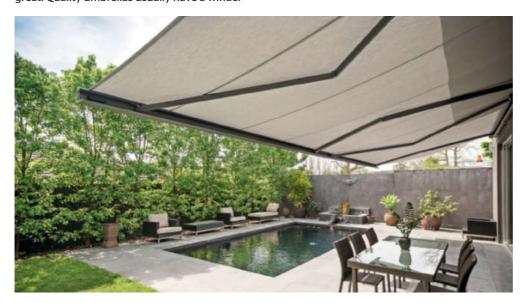
ABOVE The Kaleido umbrella, which is available from Bunnings Warehouse, can be folded away with ease. **BELOW** For flexibility, choose a folding-arm awning such as this state-of-the-art option from Acmeda

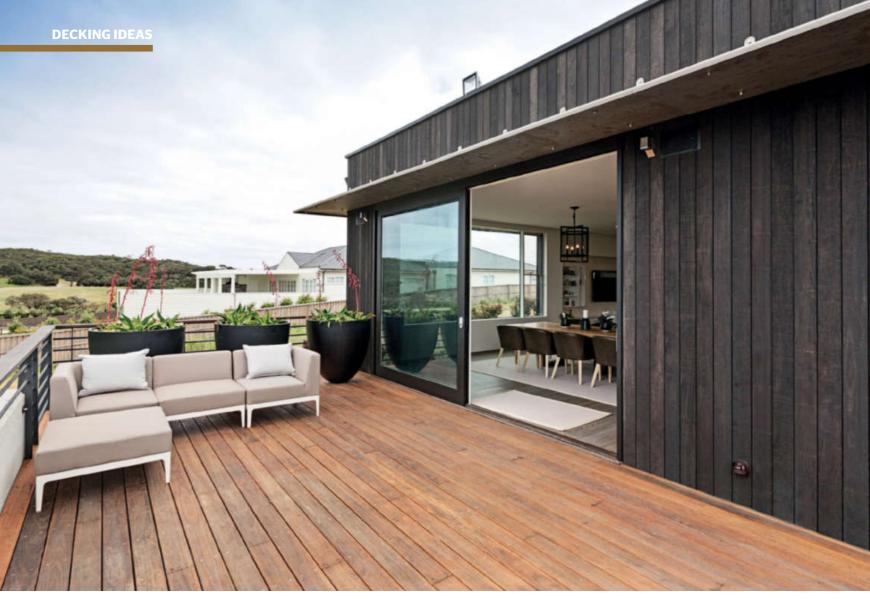
handle with an internal winch mechanism. More expensive models also have the option of the canopy being tilted and rotated.

Nature's choice

Another thing to consider is planting to create shade. This is particularly useful for pergolas where fast-growing creepers (such as jasmine or ivy) can be trained up vertical wires, creating a screen. In addition to providing shade, screening with plants also gives you much-needed privacy when entertaining. Attaching a few wires is something you can easily do yourself with minimal cost or DIY knowhow. Alternatively, both shade and privacy can be achieved with ready-made bamboo or twig-style screens. These come in rolls and are available from garden centres and hardware stores.

No matter what you choose or why, a shade solution will extend the use of your outdoor living area and essentially give you another room to use year round.





Add value

If you want to experience the full outdoor living experience, a deck is the way to do it

WORDS: Carrol Baker

sk most deck builders what the latest trend is and there's one word on their lips: big! We know Aussies embrace outdoor living with gusto, so it makes sense to have a good-sized deck. After all, a welldesigned spacious deck can transform the way you live.

Baigent Taylor from Just Deck It says decks give you more space to enjoy the great outdoors, all from the comfort of your own backyard. "Decks can be a place to dine, entertain, chill out, or for the kids to play," he says.

Decks can indeed be multipurpose. They can seamlessly link outdoor spaces or be integrated into a garden, curving around a large tree or a swimming pool. Many also play host to barbecues and pizza ovens, and complete outdoor kitchens, sunken lounges, spas and alfresco dining areas.

Modern decks are designed as living

spaces. To this end, many have inbuilt features including seating, storage and barbecue cabinets. Inbuilt planters are a feature of many, along with wide terraced steps that offer more seating when friends drop by. Beautiful inbuilt screens are also often present, segmenting spaces and affording privacy.

Modern shapes

Contemporary decks can be a multitude of shapes and styles: rectangular, square, curved, freestanding, split level or even multilevel. The style of home, location of it in relation to neighbouring properties, sheds and other built elements, and the shape and elevation of the block will play a part in determining which style of deck will suit.

Stephen Massey from Leisure Decking says when planning your deck, think outside the box. "A simple square or rectangular deck can look good but there is so much more you can do to

ABOVE Timber decking was the perfect choice for this holiday home. Photo courtesy of Eco Timber Group.

Location, location

Take a little time to think about the best location for your deck. The ideal place is directly off your indoor dining and kitchen or the placement of your house on your block. Where it is not possible to have the deck leading directly from the kitchen, a wraparound deck may be a good option as it leads you around the house to the larger

It is also worthwhile considering what the deck will look out over or flow onto. Will steps lead down to a garden or will you simply have a view of the neighbour's wall? And if you put steps in, where do they go to? If your only option is to site it where the boundary wall is the main outlook, you can snazz up the view by adding mirrors or wall art and some lovely potted plants. If you have mounted water feature.



really give it the 'wow factor'," he says.

Breaker boards, alternating different widths of decking boards, deck inlays, and techniques like picture framing are all effective methods to make your deck the talking point of the neighbourhood. Baigent says a popular new technique to give a deck a fabulous look is changing the direction of the boards. "Running the boards at different angles, even multiple angles, is a way to really take it to the next level," he says.

For a sleek look, opt for a modern hidden fastening system which will give the deck a clean nail-free look.

Material matters

Two of the most popular types of decking materials are timber and composite. Being a natural product, timber is by its very nature durable, as trees absorb moisture and are subject to drying winds. Depending on where you are in Australia, hardwoods such as spotted gum, jarrah and merbau are among the popular choices, and with so many different types to choose from, Baigent has some advice. "Always go with timbers that fall within natural durability categories of class 1 or class 2 to ensure the longevity of your deck," he says.

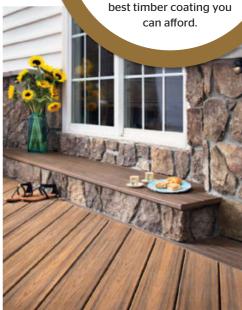
Composite decking is manufactured from timber fibres and recycled plastics. It mimics the look of natural timber, is durable, rot and termite resistant. There are many different types falling within various price brackets. Stephen says to source composite products with care. "Look for a 25-year product guarantee so you know the quality is there; some of the others just aren't up to par," he says.

Of course, there are other attractive and durable options. Aluminium decking, either with a woodgrain finish or powder-coated in the colour of your choice, is one. Another is bamboo, which is an eco-friendly choice. And for built elements on the deck such as kitchens and screens, don't be afraid to mix it up a little.

On the level

Taking a simple deck and adding a multilevel aspect is a new trend that is particularly good for sloped blocks, utilising space that might otherwise be wasted. Stephen says multilevel decks are also fantastic for defining spaces. "You might have the level closest to the home reserved for a barbecue, step onto another level that's a dining area, and walk down several full-length terrace steps to a third level, an outdoor lounge area," he says.

Freestanding or floating decks are also becoming increasingly popular. Away from the home it can be a perfect sanctuary for relaxing, or positioned in a favourite place in the garden with an outdoor table and chairs. Its uses for connecting



TOP When planning a new deck, carefully consider the placement of every element. Photo courtesy of Trex. **ABOVE** Consider mixing materials. Here, stone has been used to complement the Trex composite decking

Beauty of bamboo

For a natural look and timeless appeal, there's nothing quite like bamboo decking. It is constructed from bonded layers of shrink-resistant, rot-proof bamboo, making it very strong, which is why it is rated as a "hard" floor. It's easy to hardwood, or directly onto joists. It's also a sustainable product as bamboo is fastgrowing and self-regenerating.

House of Bamboo is a leading supplier of bamboo decking. Its strand-woven, carbonised bamboo decking is very dense and extremely strong and the boards have a grooved surface which makes them non-slip. The boards are also treated with insect retardants and impregnated with natural decking oil.

you to the outdoors at home are endless.

Balustrades or handrails are great to lean up against, pop drinks on, and might also prevent quests who overindulge stepping off the deck and landing on your prize plants below. Handrails can include timber, timber and stainless steel, glass, or wrought iron. Stephen's tip on the right fit for your deck? "Older timber homes work well with timber balustrades. For contemporary homes, and those with multiple facades, stainless steel looks amazing."

Other considerations

What features you add to your deck and how you furnish it are important too. Lighting, of course, is important, for reasons of safety and ambience. This can include flush-mounted deck floor lights, wall lights or ceiling lights. To keep you warm in winter, add heating. The choices are broad and include electric strip heaters, upright patio heaters, gas fireplaces, bioethanol burners and chimineas.

Providing a source of shade and being able to keep cool is just as important, so adding

"What features you add to your deck and how you furnish it are important"





an outdoor fan is a great idea. You can get freestanding outdoor fans but most people opt for a ceiling fan or two, placed over the spaces where people gather the most, such as dining and lounge area. If you don't have a solid roof over your deck, there are other ways to keep the sun at bay. A retractable awning is one solution, another is an umbrella.

Then there is the decor. Once you've chosen your furniture, add some unique touches to personalise the space. This might be soft cushions, outdoor rugs, wall art, potted plants or lanterns. Now all you have to do is sit back and enjoy.

TOP A ceiling fan is an excellent addition. Pictured here, the Airfusion Resort from Beacon Lighting. LEFT Composite decking is low maintenance, longlasting and very versatile. Photo courtesy of Trex.

CleverDeck Composite Decking & EnviroSlat Screen Fencing

CleverDeck is an environmentally sustainable, high-quality, solid wood composite decking supplied in a 138mm x 23mm x 5400mm size board and 5 designer colours; Chocolate, Mahogany, Slate Grey, Saltbrush and Walnut. Each board is double-sided with an indented wood grain pattern. An Ecoboard is also available in an 86mm x 23mm x 5400mm size in a rough sanded finish Mahogany colour without the grain indentation.

CleverDeck is low maintenance, termite, rot and slip resistant and has achieved an R11 slip resistance rating as tested by the CSIRO. CleverDeck composite decking is made from recycled HDPE, hard wood flour and rice husk/hulls. The decking is very easy to fix using the NewTech concealed fix black PP clips complete with blackened stainless steel screws for fixing to either steel or timber joists. Deck installation time can be reduced by up to 65% when using the NewTech deck clip system. CleverDeck also offers a DIY wood composite deck tile in the size 300mm x 300mm and this provides the ideal option for beautifying existing concrete balconies or patios. CleverDeck WPC decking can be supplied in pack lots or job lots across Australia.





The EnviroSlat range of fencing boards offer the same low maintenance and environmental sustainability as the CleverDeck decking. Available in a standard 70mm x 15mm x 5400mm board in the same finish and colour as the CleverDeck 138mm decking, EnviroSlat makes the perfect horizontal screen fence when fixed to our extra thick (2.5mm) satin black powder coated aluminium fence posts. Other profiles like the 40mm x 30mm batten are also proving popular and a soon to be released 42mm x 32mm batten offers a unique concealed fix clipping system. Futurewood will also be releasing a new fencing range called EnviroFence that offers a full privacy, good neighbour 1800mm x 2400mm composite panel with a proprietary aluminium post and rail system later in 2012.







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WORDS: Carrol Baker

resh, lively and inviting, that's the design mantra for outdoor living spaces from those in the know. Now you too can create your own private oasis on your terrace, deck or patio with these clever design tips.

Set the scene

Spice it up with flavours of Asia, lush plantings, sleek timber furniture, and a flowing water feature. For a contemporary feel, choose warm neutral colours, wicker furniture or modular pieces. If you love cottage or country style, mix it up with crisp whites, floral and quaint accessories.

Take your design cues from your interior living spaces. Decks, patios and balcony gardens flow directly from these interior spaces so to achieve an harmonious look, you need to coordinate colours, materials and key design elements. A good indoor-outdoor flow is never more essential than it is in a balcony garden.

Position, position

Di Henshall, from Di Henshall Interior Design, says placement of furniture is a principal element, particularly in smaller spaces. "To maximise flow and movement and avoid clutter, position furniture against a wall or balcony railing instead of centring it."

Martyne Bird, from Birds Landscape Design and Management, says even if your outdoor living space is very compact, you can still define and enhance the area with select pieces



All the trimmings

Be creative with your furnishings and turn your space into a stylish outdoor room

Be artistic

garden. They also add a touch of your

change as seasons or tastes evolve (such

OPPOSITE PAGE TOP LEFT Dress things up with new fabrics from Elements Weatherproof Soft Furnishings. **OPPOSITE PAGE LEFT** Cushions covered in Warwick Farbic's Coolum. Photo courtesy of Cushion Factory. BELOW A laser-cut screen attached to a wall adds a focal point. Shown, Pola screen from Outside In.

of furniture and accessories. "And if you have a very small space and want to make a big impact, less is definitely more," she adds.

Small tables can be fitted to a balustrade or compact shelving fitted to display your treasures. Look for pieces that offer flexibility and dual function in seating, tables, storage, shelving and planters. For example, you can get coffee tables or lounges that incorporate storage.

"If space is limited, source folding or stacking furniture," suggests Martyne. Some chairs form a seating cube and then concertina out to a table and chairs." A seat or planter box can also double as a storage unit. Selecting pieces from the same collection helps to evoke a sense of symmetry and connectivity between indoors and out.

Go vertical

Utilise all of your space and go vertical with attractive wall art as it can cover things you'd like to hide. It's also a way of injecting your individuality and makes a fabulous conversation piece. Wall art comes in myriad styles, patterns and colours. You can get wall screens in vibrant, powder-coated colours, a metal finish or in the ever-popular natural rush finish.

Dividers and screening offer an attractive and functional way of segmenting the space. "The biggest thing we are seeing in screening right now is laser-cut styles," says Di. "It can be used for many applications, including offering privacy from neighbours, or screening things you'd like to hide such as rubbish bins or

"Plants offer a different texture and add realism and relaxation to the space," says Martyne. Soft-flowing climbers with a proliferation of flowers or scented blooms give instant appeal. All you need to do is fix a trellis or climbing frame to a wall. You can also green up the space with modular vertical garden systems or green walls, or go for a funky screen that includes pots or a planting trough at their base.

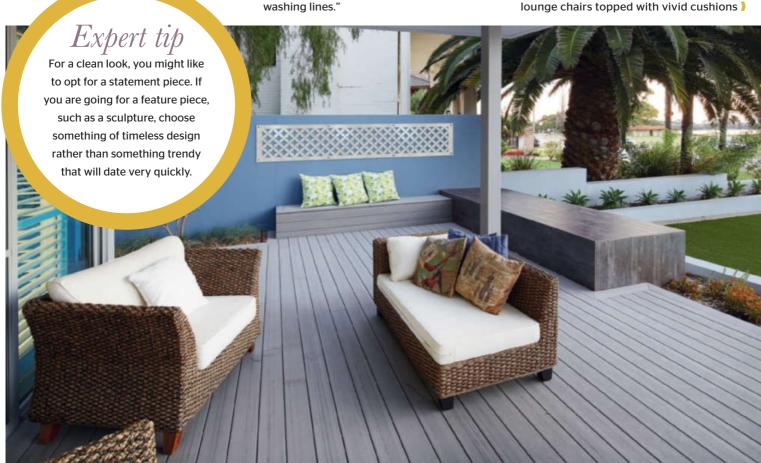
Light your way

Have fun with lighting. Add an air of casual sophistication with an antique cut-glass chandelier, retro lighting or hanging lanterns. Backlighting your artwork or sculptures also highlights it in a different way, giving it a fresh new look. "You can feel as though you are walking into another room. At night it becomes a different space altogether," says Martyne.

Team your primary lighting with soft soy candles in vintage containers, or modernise the space with flameless candles in a votive for a luminescent glow at night, suggests Di. "Sprinkle candles around, or cluster them on floors and ledges for romantic diffused lighting," she says.

Seating and eating

Create a cosy space with a cheery hammock (perfect to curl up with a good book), a hanging egg chair for a contemporary look, or, if room allows, a day bed in which you can store items underneath. Or opt for recliner lounge chairs topped with vivid cushions)



Ask yourself

- Will it be a feature piece, adornment
- How many pieces do you need? The size and design of your outdoor space and a deck area may only need one cases, one well-chosen piece is more

RIGHT From Tribu, these Pure sofas and matching chair have been dressed for the season with scatter cushions. OPPOSITE PAGE FAR RIGHT New from Royal Botania, the Zidiz lounge collection is a charming addition to any deck. **OPPOSITE PAGE BOTTOM RIGHT** Add some comfort to a pool deck with the Ninix lounge from Royal Botania.



"You can easily change the look of your space with furnishings and decor in fashionable colours"

for a resort-like feel. If you have the space and like modern or modular, add chunky rattan furnishings.

Spruce up a timber table with an attractive throw or tablecloth in crisp fabric and decorate the table top with potted colour and a row of candles. Or create an elegant space with a finely detailed wrought-iron bistro table and chairs for two. Low-maintenance, durable finishes are ultra important for furniture and accessories that are fully or partly exposed to nature's elements.

Colour me happy

Evoke a warm, inviting feel to a terrace with colour. Use bold accents or contrast with pure black and white for a different look. For major purchases such as furniture, choose neutral tones, suggests Martyne. "That way you can easily change the look of your space with furnishings and decor in fashionable colours," she advises.

Contemporary colour palettes in accessories are rich and vibrant. "We are still in the throes of the global financial crisis,

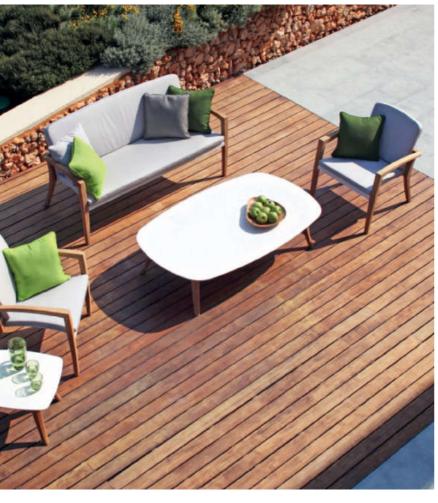
and bright colour trends always follow tough economic times," says Di. "Mix up brightcoloured scatter cushions in different designs to create a casually thrown-together, easyliving feel. The trick is not to make it look too structured or formal."

Finishing touches

Let your personality shine with a range of charming accessories. These can include outdoor rugs in rich colours made from weather-resistant fabrics. "These are soft underfoot and keep the tiles clean," says Di. "It makes you feel as though you are indoors and is another clever way to blur the lines between indoors and out."

Finally, try turning up the tactile with different textures: smooth silks, warm timbers, beautiful bamboo, cool silver-steel screening, or flowing water. "Texture should be built up by different elements: layered materials or layered composites that bring texture and interest to the space," says Di. "A mix of scatter cushions, rugs, screening, candles, plants, tables and other furniture all give textural interest."











Under glass

Part garden and part home, the modern-day conservatory is the ultimate outdoor room

WORDS: Carrol Baker

onservatories allow you to bring the outside in, creating a light and airy environment that links the outdoors to your home's interior. Of course, building a conservatory is not a cheap proposition and detailed working drawings and plans will be required for planning and building permits. But planned well and professionally built, your conservatory will be a year-round asset.

Is a conservatory part of your house or part of your garden? Ask Paul Orechow, design consultant from Conservatory Construction Company, and he'll tell you it's a little of both. "Conservatories make it possible to feel like you are outside so you can enjoy that sensation while being protected from the elements," he says. You can catch the sun's

rays on a wintry afternoon, hear the soothing patter of summer rain on the roof, or sit under a twinkling canopy of stars, all within the comfort of your home.

Endless versatility

Modern-day conservatories are beautiful structures filled with warmth and light and are designed for living and entertaining in, not just for plants. They create rooms that can serve as a dining area, study, rumpus, home gym or even an enclosure for a swimming pool and spa, says Dot Platt, sales operations manager from Ian Cubitt's Classic Home Improvements.

And with cutting-edge, environmentally smart construction methods and materials available, such as glazing, thermal shade options and ventilation systems, your

The benefits

A well-designed conservatory is subtle and unobtrusive, looking and functioning like a natural extension of the home. Whether you want to use it as a garden room, dining area, office or playroom, adding a conservatory to your home not only gives you more space, it opens up your home to the outside world in a unique way.

also be incorporated into the design of the conservatory.

Of course, a conservatory doesn't have to literally be an extension of your home. Can you think of a more delightfully practical and genteel way to enclose your swimming pool? In a very short time, you'll find that everyone gravitates to this indoor-outdoor room, attracted by the abundance of natural light and sunshine.





conservatory won't be adding to your family's carbon footprint.

Conservatories can be positioned wherever you choose. While they can be built as a freestanding structure, they are traditionally used as a home extension. Adding on a conservatory can transform a dark uninviting corner of your yard or turn the back or side of your home into an airy, light-filled space, providing more room for a growing family.

Design decisions

So if you're thinking about a conservatory, where do you start? Conservatories can be constructed in virtually any shape or design, but it should blend with your home. "In the design process it is vital to consider the look of your home and select a design style that will complement the existing architectural style," says Paul.

Aspect is another issue. Ideally, a northfacing aspect is best to maximise the warm winter sun and capture cooling breezes. If you can, avoid a hot westerly aspect or a position prone to high winds.

Conservatory frames are generally constructed

from powder-coated aluminium, timber (western red cedar, for example) or structural steel. "We are seeing more conservatories being built with powder-coated aluminium. With appropriate dyes and mouldings they can still look very Victorian if you want a period look, and they don't require as much maintenance as timber frames," says Paul.

Climate control

Glazing options include standard toughened or laminated safety glass, and if your conservatory faces west, thermal glazing is a good option to help keep out the heat on summer days, suggests Dot.

Some people also opt for double glazing. This is two sheets of glass separated by a sealed pocket of air or gas that slows down the transmission of cold and heat. Double glazing reduces heat loss while still allowing the passage of solar radiation and natural light, so it makes it much easier to adequately heat or cool a conservatory, no matter how large. Because of its insulating properties, double glazing will also help you reduce your energy bills and cut greenhouse gas emissions. Basking in the warmth of the winter sun in your conservatory is one thing, but it's quite another when the mercury starts to soar. This is where shading and ventilation systems come in. Bifold opening doors, windows and roof vents allow free-flowing air - these can be manually or remotely operated. Thermal blinds can also be fitted to the roof where smart technology can link the blinds being drawn to thermostat control, a remote, or a wall switch.

Decorative touches

A conservatory is a space where your home and garden converge so when decorating it, select furniture and accessories that will help to create a cosy feel. For example, if you are creating a rumpus or family room, use a neutral colour palette. Consider cane or bamboo furniture as it's both natural and durable.

For lighting, choose standard lamps or wall

OPPOSITE PAGE TOP LEFT This classic conservatory increases living space and adds value to the home. TOP LEFT This beautifully furnished conservatory is the perfect place to unwind on a chilly winter's day TOP RIGHT This conservatory by Acorn Garden Houses has French doors to access the rear garden.



lights for a soft ambience. Trapeze lighting is another option, or you could go for a touch of sophistication with a crystal chandelier.

Smooth tiles underfoot complete the look of your conservatory. These could be made from natural sandstone in neutral tones to complement your decor. While a natural stone (perhaps slate or limestone) adds that earthy touch, terracotta is another option, as are ceramic tiles. Add rugs for added winter warmth and to complete the roomstyle look of the conservatory.

A word on plants

If you're going to have lots of plants in your conservatory, then good ventilation is essential. Before choosing and placing plants you need to acquaint yourself with the changing patterns of light and shade in each area of the conservatory. Green foliaged plants that originally hail from the tropics won't do well in direct light. They need dense shade to do well. On the other hand, a sun-loving plant such as the climber thunbergia can be used as a means of greening a sunny wall while providing some cooling shade.

Landscaping your conservatory is like landscaping any outdoor room. It's a matter of matching plants to the growing conditions and creating the right composition. You might like to choose plants with soft gentle fragrances and long-lasting blooms, or you might like to create a tropical feel by potting up a few palms and including some bromeliads and ferns in pots. The choice is yours.

"Conservatories allow you to bring the outside in, creating a light and airy environment"

ABOVE Light, airy and spacious, this conservatory offers a genuine sense of connection with the garden.



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Universal Magazines is delighted to partner with barbecue extraordinaire Heatlie to present this special barbecue cookbook for subscribers and entrants into the competition to WIN an Island Gourmet Elite, valued at \$3500!

From ricotta hotcakes with grilled stone fruit to whole-baked snapper and lemongrass and chilli pork neck satay, the dishes in the *Cook with Heatlie* recipe book showcase the diversity and flexibility of Heatlie barbecues. We hope you have fun trying out some of the recipes created by Heatlie brand ambassador and runner-up of *Masterchef Australia* 2014, Laura Cassai.

We want to know your favourite BBQ recipe coming into summer!

To enter the draw to WIN, visit beaheatliechef.com.au



About the PRIZE:

The Australian-made Island Gourmet Elite is the ideal choice for outdoor kitchens. The stylish, stainless-steel unit can be dropped directly into any type of benchtop, including timber, laminate, granite and Caeserstone, and comes fully assembled, making installation a breeze.

Its solid-steel hotplate with optional roasting hood is ideal for cooking all types of foods, including stir-fries, seafood, pizzas and traditional barbecue favourites, and the steel ribbon burners prevent charring, eliminate hot and cold spots and ensure food is cooked evenly.

Hard-wearing and easy to clean, Heatlie barbecues are available in LPG or natural gas and come with a flame-failure safety feature, which shuts off the gas if the flame goes out. The Island Gourmet Elite can also be used as a free-standing barbecue when combined with the stainless-steel cabinet.



BEASIBANSIB homes

THE INSPIRATION AND INFORMATION YOU NEED TO CREATE YOUR OWN PIECE OF COASTAL PARADISE.



How many of us dream of living by the water? In Australia, we have a lifestyle envied around the world. With warm summers and temperate winters, we can enjoy the beauty of the ocean all year-round.

Creating homes or apartments to take advantage of these views requires expert design as no two coastal locations have the same topography or climate.

Knowledge of local conditions is vital when considering a building site for a coastal home as weather conditions can change in an instant, and those conditions will impact the way your home withstands the elements.

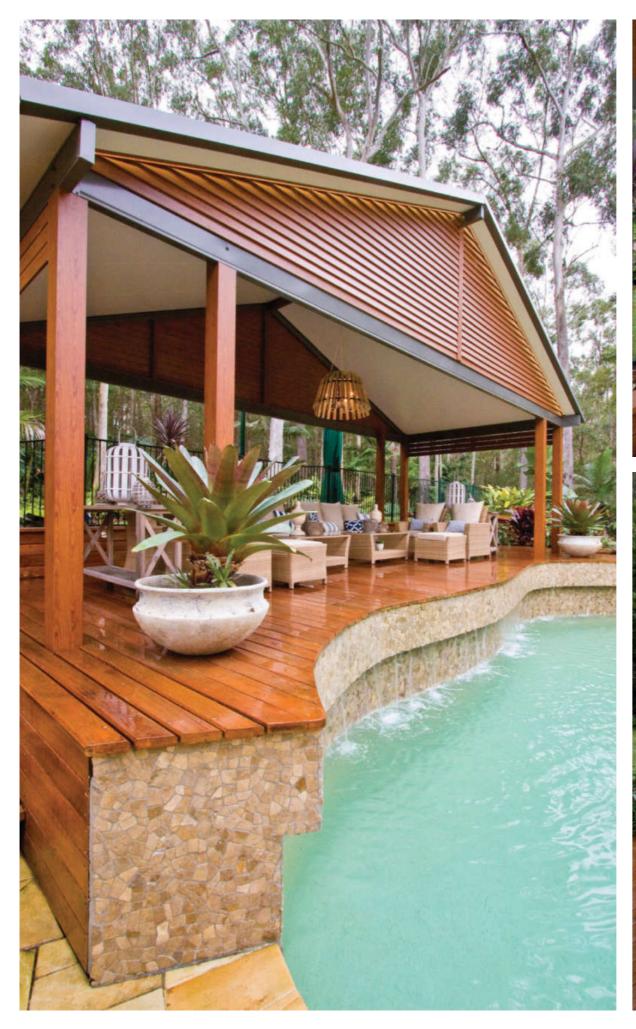
It is from the experts, then, that we have selected our favourite projects from across the country, and around the world, to share with you in the Beach & Bayside Homes bookazine. Each one is a unique expression of the designer's vision and homeowner's desire. We believe these beautiful homes capture the essence of relaxed, sophisticated coastal living.







Design Source >











Outdoor oasis

This stunning poolside pergola provides a private place to unwind and entertain



🕇 top. Think. Rest. We all need to do these things, but it's just so hard to find a place to unwind. That's why this Brisbane couple built their own, calling on the experts from Lifestyle Patios to finish their pool renovations with a stunning poolside pergola.

The elevated position provides a regal feeling and with ample space for a full outdoor setting, the pergola overflows with style. The colour scheme was carefully balanced between the cool tones of the pool area and the surrounding vegetation and landscaping. Tying it all together with a warm colour was not only a smart design choice, it gives the pergola a look that is clean yet tropical.

Everything about this project says "quality", from the materials to the installation. It proves you simply can't beat the high-quality finish you get when you pair great design with superior know-how.

While the deck was made from timber, it was decided that the pergola itself was going to be made from hardier materials to reduce wear and maintenance. Luckily, Knotwood's wood-grain slats were perfect for the job. The slats closely matched the timber of the decking and as they are made from aluminium, they are immune to mould and mildew.

The posts of the pergola were coated in

Knotwood's wood-grain finish. To achieve the coveted wood-grain effect, a strong and durable powder-coat layer was applied and then a woodgrain image was printed onto that. This two-stage sublimation process makes the finish highly resistant to flaking, chipping and chalking, without sacrificing any of the aesthetic qualities.

With the materials decided on, Lifestyle Patios went to work, expertly finishing the project. The results speak for themselves. Now this Brisbane couple can relax and unwind in their own oasis, sheltered from the daily pressures of life.

Knotwood is an Australian-based manufacturer that provides wood-grain finishing and its own range of aluminium systems that can be used for fencing, decking, cladding and a whole host of other applications. All products are available in a range of standard powder-coat colours as well as Knotwood's beautiful wood-grain finish. If you want peace of mind and a top-quality finish, call Knotwood for a free quote.

For more information

Knotwood

Email sales@knotwood.com Website www.knotwood.com







Eco savvy

Whatever your landscaping or building project, choose eco-friendly timber

here's a great deal to think about when choosing timber, with durability and sustainability two of the prime considerations. Whether it's timber for decking, cladding or flooring, selecting the right timber for the right application is essential.

Eco Timber specialises in recycled, reclaimed, re-milled and sustainably sourced timber. The varied product range comprises recycled solid posts and beams, wharf piers, larger-section decking and a variety of cladding options, including three-dimensional mixed widths.

The company also stocks new and old sustainable Australian species along with timber products with Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) and Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification. The latter includes the only FSC-certified sugar gum timber available in Australia.

Decking and cladding are available in spotted gum, blackbutt (set lengths), red mahogany and stringy bark, and for your convenience, decking timbers are available pre-oiled. For internal flooring, you have a choice of grey iron bark, spotted gum, messmate, blackbutt, American oak and European oak.

Eco Timber takes great pride in providing a point of difference within the timber industry. "We recognise the importance of reducing our footprint and we are proud to say we've led the way for green products in an industry that doesn't always see the point of it. We re-use what would otherwise be wasted, giving timber a second- and third-life use," says company owner Josh Alexander.

"We also take great interest in our clients' projects so we can become an effective part of the selection process. We focus on providing expert advice to ensure the client receives a fit-for-purpose product, not the most costly product. It's our goal to help clients find the

best structural and aesthetic solution, no matter what the project or application," he adds.

Whether you are looking for ethically sourced Class 1 and Class 2 timbers or recycled/ex-project timbers, Eco Timber can help you create a unique, visually stunning look. "We can also offer custom profiles on our materials and if you need joinery done, whether to create a table, benchtop or shelves, we can do that too," says Josh. "So why not leave that old timber industry mentality behind and opt for a new, eco-friendly way of choosing and using timber products?"

For more information

Eco Timber Group

418 Burnley Street, Richmond Vic 3121 Website www.ecotimbergroup.com.au Facebook https://www.facebook.com/ ecotimberaroup







Clever thinking

Composite exterior cladding and decking provides a low-maintenance solution

his coastal holiday home in Blairgowrie on Victoria's Mornington Peninsula sits between the calm waters of Port Phillip Bay and the wild seas of Bass Strait. The elevation of the home means it is constantly exposed to the elements, especially salty sea-driven winds.

This presented a challenge for the owners, who required external cladding and decking products that would stand up to the extreme environment yet need minimal maintenance. The design team at Brian Alsop Architects immediately looked to Futurewood's timber alternatives CleverDeck and EnviroSlat.

CleverDeck decking and EnviroSlat weatherproof cladding are both wood plastic composite (WPC) products designed to withstand the extreme Australian climate. Where forestgrown timbers require constant maintenance to reduce the risk of breakdown and rot from

exposure to the elements, Futurewood's WPC products will not rot, warp, split, twist or splinter. Best of all, they will do this without the regular sanding and oiling/painting that regular timber decking and cladding requires.

Says builder Tim Rogers-Wilson of TRW Constructions: "I found CleverDeck easy to work with and install, especially because we used Futurewood's NewTech Deck Clips, which significantly reduced the installation time and left us with a beautifully concealed fixing. I also found Futurewood staff to be very helpful."

For this project, Tim also used Futurewood's EnviroSlat 156mm weatherproof cladding for the home's exterior. As with all Futurewood products, the colour runs right through the cladding and there is no need to paint or oil the boards as they come prefinished and ready to use.

The owners of this property wanted a colour

which would complement the surrounding landscape so they went with Slate Grey for both the decking and the cladding. CleverDeck comes with an indented grain pattern and is available in a choice of five colours: Mahogany, Slate Grey, Saltbush, Walnut and Chocolate. (Other colours are available, subject to minimum order quantities.) EnviroSlat 156mm weatherproof cladding comes with a coarse sanded finish and is available to order in a wide range of colours.

For more information

Futurewood Pty Ltd Phone 1300 484 308

Email info@futurewood.com.au Website www.futurewood.com.au



Fire it up

If you love to cook, a wood-fired oven is a great addition to your outdoor kitchen

ny time is the right time to add a wood-fired oven to your outdoor kitchen. When you cook with wood, the flavours you create are mouth-watering. In fact, everything from pizzas and roasts to breads and even steaks just taste better when cooked in a wood-fired oven.

Australia's premier wood-fired oven specialist, The Melbourne Fire Brick Company, offers the eager home entertainer and avid cook several options, but one of the most popular is the comany's complete wood-fired oven installation service.

The installation arm of the business has been steadily growing, and for good reason. Australians spend a lot of time on their decks or out in their backyards and they need to know that their new wood-fired oven not only looks amazing but that it has been expertly installed, ensuring maximum functionality and longevity.

The experienced staff at The Melbourne Fire Brick Company can help you with the whole process. They can work with you to design the perfect wood-fired oven, one that will meet your lifestyle needs and perfectly complement your outdoor entertaining area. They can also help you with choosing the right location, laying foundations, building a solid stand and trimming your wood-fired oven to give your outdoor entertaining area a fully finished, fully integrated appearance.

Whatever option you choose, whether its

a custom design and full installation, or you prefer to go down the DIY route, there is no denying there is something about cooking with fire that draws people in, taking us back to simpler times. It also engages people. When you throw a wood-fired pizza party, it gives everyone an opportunity to participate, making their own pizzas and then cooking them.

For more information

The Melbourne Fire Brick Company Phone (03) 9703 1758

Email sales@melbournefirebricks.com.au Website www.melbournefirebricks.com.au



Slim is in

Enjoy cosy alfresco living year-round with slim-line electric radiant outdoor heaters

ew types of outdoor heaters are enabling families to enjoy outdoor entertaining all year round. Heatstrip Classic is a stylish and unobtrusive electric radiant heater that provides an even and comfortable heat.

With a distinctive slim profile and black face, the Heatstrip Classic blends elegantly into any decor. It is one of the most energy-efficient heaters available in Australia, with running costs starting from just 30 cents per hour. This compares to more than \$2.50 per hour for a bottled gas patio heater.

Anywhere around the home is ideal for the Heatstrip Classic, including undercover outdoor living and alfresco dining areas; patios, verandahs, courtyards and balconies; and hard-to-heat garages or sheds. They can even be installed under an umbrella.

The Heatstrip Classic, which was recently recognised for its product excellence by the Australian Business Awards, winning the "Product Value" category, has superior corrosion protection due to its unique alloy casing, making it ideal for all locations, including coastal areas. Heatstrip Classic has no internal moving parts, which ensures silent and maintenance-free operation. An optional controller provides reassurance of automatic switch off and temperature control. The standard bracket enables easy installation to ceilings and walls, with optional flush-mount and suspension kits available.

Thermofilm Australia has also turned up the heat with the Heatstrip Max. This heater is suitable for difficult-to-heat exposed outdoor sites and areas with high ceilings, such as pergolas and balconies, and even indoor spaces such as garages. A unique feature of the high-temperature infrared heater is Heatstrip Max's low-glow Incoloy heating element technology.

The dual-element Heatstrip Max can be installed on ceilings up to 3m high. Built to commercial-grade quality, it comes with ceiling, wall, chain/wire and pole suspension mounting options and model THX2400 is supplied with a lead and plug for easy DIY installation.

All heaters in the Heatstrip range are fully designed, engineered and assembled in Australia for Australian conditions. In recognition of their high manufacturing standards, the Victorian government's





Manufacturing Hall of Fame named Thermofilm the 2014 Manufacturer of the Year.

Recommended retail prices start from \$448 for the Heatstrip Classic and \$698 for the Heatstrip Max 2400. All Heatstrip heaters come with a two-year full replacement warranty for residential applications.

In addition to trade outlets, Heatstrip heaters are available nationally at Masters Home Improvement and Bunnings, as well as specialty outdoor living, electrical and heating stores. A full list of stores is available on the website.

For more information Thermofilm Australia Pty Ltd

Phone (03) 9562 3455 Website www.heatstrip.com.au







Classic cane

For timeless style and modern comfort, cane furniture will always be the perfect choice

onjuring up images of tropical resorts and leisurely days spent relaxing on the deck or by the pool, cane furniture has enduring appeal and a dateless look.

For more than 30 years, Casablanca Cane has been producing an outstanding range of highquality, Australian-made split-cane furniture. Owned and operated by the Blewer family, Casablanca Cane has a long and proud tradition of supplying designers and architects around the country. It also has a solid reputation for using only the best-quality materials and insisting on the highest-quality craftsmanship.

While the collection pays homage to the classic designs of the 1920s and '30s, the look is timeless and the furniture is made to cope with the demands of modern living. The range of furniture is extensive and offers something to meet all your lifestyle needs, starting with stylish day beds. By simply choosing a frame colour that complements your outdoor space and dressing it with cushions that reflect your decorating scheme, a Casablanca Cane day bed will look right at home in any setting.

Another option is a Casablanca Cane lounge chair, ideal for those looking for a comfy piece of furniture that will allow them to stretch out in style. Then there are the table-and-chair combos, ranging from the Tub Dining Setting for four to the Club Dining Setting for two. And for comfort combined with classic beauty, you can't go past the Queenslander Setting, complete with two-seater sofa, matching chairs and footstool. To add the final touch to an outdoor setting, Casablanca Cane has a

range of coffee tables in a variety of styles.

The full Casablanca Cane furniture range is available in gold oak, tortoiseshell or lime white finishes. Custom-designed pieces are available on request. To see the complete range of high-quality furniture, which can be used inside the home, not just outside, visit the Casablanca Cane website.

For more information

Casablanca Cane

474 Hume Highway, Yagoona NSW 2199

Phone (02) 9796 3663

Fax (02) 9796 1590

Website www.casablancacane.com.au



pring is here so it's time to brighten up that drab wall and bring some life to your garden. Imagine a wall of spring flowers or your favourite herbs and vegetables ... with PAPS Vertical Gardens anything is possible, and at a great price.

PAPS Vertical Gardens has designed an easy-to-use vertical garden system that's ideal for balconies, courtyards, decks or even larger backyards. This innovative new system, developed in consultation with leading horticulturalists and landscape designers, offers the simple-to-install, cost-effective green wall solution the Australian market has been eagerly waiting for.

The system comprises a slimline frame and pots, which simply hook on and off the frame. You can choose between a freestanding frame (1500mm high, 600mm wide and 300mm deep) or a wall-mounted frame (1320mm high, 600mm wide and 250mm deep), which comes pre-drilled. Both frames are powder-coated, hold 18 pots and, at your request, can be fitted with a simple

drip irrigation system that waters from the top down. Designed to suit a large range of plants, the recyclable, UV-stabilised pots come in boxes of 10.

The system can be bought online, at leading nurseries and garden centres throughout Australia or from the PAPS Vertical Garden Display & Garden Centre in the Melbourne suburb of Caulfield South. This is a one-stop shop for all your vertical gardening needs, from organic soil (with the right nutrients and drainage for green walls) to plants. The garden centre also offers a swap-a-pot service, which means you can purchase a pot once and then swap it for the cost of a new plant.

PAPS Vertical Gardens' specialty is green wall design and consultation, the cost of which is deducted from your purchases if you buy your plants and vertical garden system from PAPS Vertical Gardens. The company also provides an installation service, which comes with a three-month free maintenance program. In addition, they offer ongoing maintenance at very competitive prices.



For more information

PAPS Vertical Gardens

Vertical Garden Display & Garden Centre 612 Glen Huntly Road, Caulfield South Vic 3062 Website www.papsverticalgardens.com.au Facebook www.facebook.com/pages/Paps-Vertical-aardens/684456594984142

Ticking all the boxes

From pots and pavers to water features and wall art, this garden centre has it all

he pavers, plants, pots and water features you choose give your garden its unique character. Choose well and you will enhance the design of your garden, creating a look that will have enduring appeal.

To make the selection process as easy as possible, Four Seasons Nursery & Garden Centre has amassed an amazing array of gardenware and landscaping products. With a well-stocked outlet located in the Sydney suburb of Belrose, this spacious garden centre offers one-stop shopping. Whether you are on the lookout for decorative elements, thriving plant stock or mulch, you will be spoiled for choice.

Four Seasons Nursery & Garden Centre's range of garden decor is extensive. You will find water features in a variety of styles, lightweight pots and planters in just about every colour and shape imaginable, garden art and outdoor furniture. The garden centre also stocks several vertical garden systems, which allow you to dress up drab garden walls and introduce plant life into small outdoor spaces.

If landscape materials are what you are after, Four Seasons Nursery & Garden Centre has all your needs covered. There is a broad selection of pavers (concrete, clay and natural stone), retaining wall blocks and cladding at your disposal. You will also find soil, sand, mulch and pebbles along with turf and treated pine. Add to this garden edging, irrigation supplies, bagged cement and concrete, tools, hardware and, of course, plants and you









have everything you need at your fingertips.

You can see what Four Seasons Nursery & Garden Centre has to offer by visiting the website or by dropping into the centre, which is open seven days a week. Offering the ultimate one-stop-shopping experience, the garden centre is staffed by knowledgeable people who can help customers with the selection of plants, decor and landscape supplies.

Not only can the people at Four Seasons Nursery & Garden Centre supply you with what you need, they can arrange delivery and installation of water features, pots and plants. Staff can also quote on landscape plans as well as pot and plant combinations.

Four Seasons Nursery & Garden Centre supplies large and small projects and to make your life easier, can arrange delivery six days a week.

For more information

Four Seasons Nursery &

Garden Centre

Phone (02) 9450 1606

Email sales@fsgc.com.au

Website www.fourseasonsnursery.com.au









Talking bamboo

Whether for screening, hedging or feature planting, bamboo is a versatile choice

amboo is a fast-growing plant, which makes it an excellent choice for a screen or hedge. In next to no time you can have a leafy privacy screen to block out the neighbours or a luxuriant hedge to add a sense of tranquillity to your garden. Bamboo will also do well in pots and planters, making it a supremely versatile option.

All bamboos are not alike, however, which is why you need the expertise only a specialist bamboo nursery such as Bamboo Creations Victoria can bring. Bamboo Creations Victoria specialises in clumping and running bamboo suited to the Melbourne climate, which is the company's primary customer base.

"We offer an extensive range of bamboo with more than 55 varieties, including some rare species," says company owner Jennifer Van Ekeren. "We also work closely with landscaping companies who come to us for

healthy, quality bamboo for both residential and commercial projects. We have many years of experience growing bamboo for the Melbourne climate so we know what works and what doesn't. With our knowledge of bamboo, we can help you choose the right bamboo for the right situation."

Customer service is a high priority at Bamboo Creations Victoria, as is spreading the word about the beauty and versatility of bamboo. "We love talking to people about bamboo, which is why we attend many events, such as plant fairs and markets, every year," says Jennifer. "We also travel to Canberra, Adelaide and several locations throughout New South Wales, taking with us many types of bamboo suited to local climates."

To find out more about the company's calendar of events, its product range or planting service, visit the website.



For more information

Bamboo Creations Victoria

50 Meadowbrook Way,

Riddells Creek Vic 3431

Phone 1300 654 454

Email info@bamboo-plants.com.au Website www.bamboo-plants.com.au



Made to adore

To ensure your outdoor room is a perfect fit, you need a design professional

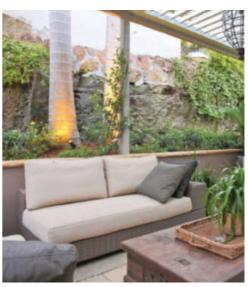
itting hand in glove with the heritage home and its rocky surrounds, this pergola-covered patio is the owners' dream outdoor room. With a strong emphasis on natural materials, the patio is a timeless space that has everything the owners need to relax or entertain, including comfortable outdoor furniture, an open wood-burning fire and an outdoor television.

The property's rock boundary wall and the side feature wall, with its fireplace and decorative log storage inset, create a feeling of enclosure, while the Vergola roof allows in natural light and cooling breezes.

From the outdoor room, which is paved in a classic French pattern, you have a clear view of the swimming pool. To seamlessly link the pool and living areas, the same sandstonecapped walling was used, the colour of which complements the exterior of the house. The planting palette emphasises plants with interesting foliage, with a selection of whiteflowering plants included for subtle contrast.

As with any successful project, there was some vital "behind the scenes" construction work that needed to be carried out before the final form of the patio and garden could take shape. This included shoring up the embankment and fixing drainage problems. Ambient low-voltage lighting completes the picture.

Designed by Olaf von Sperl and Andrew Davis of Adore My Garden, the meticulously landscaped grounds and the sophisticated outdoor room complement the traditional architecture of the residence and provide for the outdoor living needs of a modern family.



For more information

Mobile 0412 524 630 (Olaf von Sperl)

Website www.adoremygarden.com

Contacts & Stockists

Designer Gardens

Aloha Pools

www.alohapools.com.au

Brannelly Outdoor

www.brannellyoutdoor.com.au

BTM Trades

www.btmtrades.com.au

Cornerstone

www.servicingaustralia.com.au/profile/8551cornerstone-landscape-construction-and-

design/

COS Design

www.cosdesign.com.au

BJB Landscaping

www.bjblandscaping.com.au

Kings Landscaping Design & Construction

www.kingslandscaping.com.au

ecodesign

www.ecodesign.com.au

Enkipools

www.enkipools.com

Franklin Landscape and Design

www.franklinld.com

Hamilton Landscapes

www.hamiltonlandscapes.com.au

Justine Carlile Landscape Design

www.justinecarlile.com.au

King's Landscaping Design & Construction

www.kingslandscaping.com.

KMD The Outdoor Construction Company

www.kmdoutdoorconstruction.com.au

Nathan Burkett Design

www.nathanburkett.com.au

Newforms Landscape Architecture

www.newforms.com.au

Outdoor Creations

www.outdoorcreations.com.au

Outside In

www.outsidein.net.au

Phase3 Landscape Construction

www.phasethree.net.au

Phillip Withers Landscape Design

www.phillipwithers.com

Stanbrook Creations

www.stanbrook.com.au

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